MARY AND FANNY.

A Narrative.

BY JUVENIS.

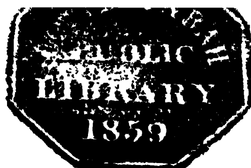
I came to the place of my birth, and said of the friends of my youth—'Where are they?' and an echo replied—'Where are they?'

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MARY AND FANNY.

CHAPTER I.

———————"Knowledge dwells
In heads replete with thoughts of other men,
Wisdom in minds attentive to their own."

"WHITHER are you going?" said the pastor of Uston to a group of young people whom he overtook in passing through the village.

"We are going to S——; we wish very much to see that city, and this is a holiday with us, sir," replied Fanny, the eldest of the children.

"True, I remember it now; I also am going thither—let us walk together."

It was a fine autumnal morning; the young rustics, delighted to accompany their venerable pastor, briskly took the road that led to S——.

"What can these threads possibly be?" exclaimed one of the party, "see they float about in the air, and there is one quite covered over with dew, drawn across the path."

"This appearance, often observed in autumn, is termed gossamer, and is produced by a number of small spiders, that spin several long threads to which they attach themselves, and by that means float in the air, or move from place to place; by coiling up their threads, they can descend to the ground at pleasure."

"Thank you, sir," replied the little boy; "I am afraid we shall not find many flowers in the wood to-day."

"Most probably not; very few plants blossom at this season, except the ivy and autumnal crocus."

"The hedges though look beautiful

with their ripe berries—how thick they hang on some of the bushes!"

"This profusion of berries foretells a severe winter," Vernor observed.

"Is that a true sign?"

"I do not assert it to be such on my own observation, but the circumstance has been noticed by a great philosopher, and my country neighbours have often told me that the quantity of berries is proportioned to the severity of the ensuing winter."

"Then it must be true."

"Wherefore?"

"Oh, not because the country people say so, but since a great philosopher did."

"It appears to me highly probable that lord Bacon (to whom I alluded) has grounded his assertion on the authority of persons in the same line of life as my informers."

"Indeed! would a philosopher condescend to receive information from an unlearned husbandman?" asked Fanny, who had listened attentively to the dialogue.

"Undoubtedly; what think you constitutes a learned man, that he should be thus supercilious? I never yet saw a man of really-enlarged mind neglect any source of information likely to prove correct."

"But, sir, are *all* the learned wise?"

"I fear not. Let me ask," he continued, "what ideas you form when speaking of learning and wisdom?"

"Does not learning consist in literary and scientific knowledge?"

"Perhaps that explanation of the term may pass; what then do you understand by wisdom?"

"Is it not true judgment—the habit of drawing just inferences from all we feel, hear, or perceive?" answered Fanny, doubtingly.

"I think so," replied the pastor.

"Can a man be wise without knowledge, sir? can he form just inferences from passing circumstances without literary instruction?"

"Certainly. I think a man may possess invaluable treasures of wisdom without

any other sources of information than those afforded by observation and reflection; but add to the confined experience of an individual the copious stores of information which reading and general knowledge afford, and how luminous will the mind of that same individual become!—We will talk again on this subject; at present I have something of yet greater interest to communicate.

"At length," said the pastor, taking the little orphan by the hand, "Mary Trevor and myself are enabled to fulfil the promise conditionally given to your lamented father. Mary and her brother are returned from their residence in Italy, so long protracted, and in the course of the next week I hope to see them at Uston. Mary, I trust, will leave me no more; we have consequently determined that henceforth you shall live entirely at the parsonage; your uncle has consented to resign to us the entire care of you."

"How good!" repeated Fanny several times, weeping at the remembrance of her

parent, which not even the kindness of this steady friend could chase from her heart.

"Oh! could you but know my thoughts, sir, you would not think me ungrateful."

"Neither do I; perhaps I am not far from divining them, Fanny: but come, it was my intention to give you pleasure, and not to recal painful remembrances; let us think only of the pleasure that Mary's return will give to all; none of the children know of it yet—you shall have the satisfaction of giving them cause to rejoice."

To temper by benevolent exertion the keen edge of misfortune, was a precept practised to perfection by the venerable man who gave it. While Vernor saw Fanny's countenance again illumined with cheerfulness, as she told the joyful tale to her companions, and heard the artless expression of their gladness, he compared in silence the present race of children with those whose improvement he had in early life attempted in conjunction with his friend Trevor. Since that period the third

generation had sprung up around him, and in them his plans had finally produced the long-desired effect; yet, in this interval, of what had he not been bereaved!—the peculiarly-distressing nature of the circumstances increased the pain of the retrospect.

The train of thought into which he had imperceptibly fallen was now interrupted by the children, who inquired whether he would pass through the wood?

"No," replied Vernor, "the sun has not yet penetrated through the trees sufficiently to dry up the dew in the narrow pathway we should be obliged to take; let us cross the heath."

They soon reached the open common; here the bluebell, the fragrant thyme, and the golden furze, stretching over a rich carpet of purple-blossomed heath, delighted the children.

"We saw the fieldfare yesterday," said one of them.

"Yes; it arrives in this country about the end of September, and leaves us again

in March for Sweden and other northern countries. The berries, of which we were speaking not an hour since, compose the principal part of its food, and that of other species also; thus the poet Cowper—

"Nor yet the hawthorn bore her berries red,
With which the fieldfare, wintry guest, is fed;
Nor autumn yet had brush'd from ev'ry spray,
With her chill hand, the mellow leaves away."

"How very pretty that is!" said one of the younger children; "pray, sir, repeat some more of it."

"Not at present; when we have reached the top of yonder hill, we shall have other objects to consider."

Having gained the summit, every former object of curiosity was forgotten; suddenly the city of S—— appeared in the midst of the extensive plain below them.

Questions too numerous to be answered now assailed the patient guide, who, as the best means of giving information, himself

anticipated their inquiries respecting the most striking objects.

"Yonder, to the left, is the tall spire of the cathedral. That square edifice of old stonework is the castle; built originally as a fortress to defend the city, it now serves the purpose of a county prison; one day you shall hear an anecdote connected with it in this latter capacity. Those handsome buildings, forming a large square, are the barracks for the soldiers. Those cupolas rising to the right point out the public hospital; to that useful institution some of you, children, are highly indebted. There your mother, William, was cured when she suffered from that dreadful contusion on the head; at the same place your father, Sarah, recovered from his lingering fever, and gathered strength to return and supply his family with bread. But doubtless you desire a nearer view of the city; let us take this narrow path—it is a short, though rugged way."

On entering the streets of S——, the

children had feared Vernor would dismiss them; with high delight they heard him continue—"You are fortunate—you will see the city full of animation; this very day the annual feast is held to celebrate the entrance of the chief magistrate for the ensuing year upon his office. The corporation will go in procession to the cathedral, thence, after service, to the town-hall, where the new magistrate will enter into a solemn engagement to perform with integrity the duties of his office, which are those of maintaining public tranquillity, and redressing petty local grievances; after this ceremony he will join his fellow-citizens at a grand feast annually provided on the occasion."

When the party reached the gates of the cathedral, the procession had already entered the great aisle; the organ played a solemn strain, and a vast concourse of spectators followed in the train. From the adjoining cloisters the children took a view of the procession, amused by the grotesque appearance of the city robes and

antique regalia, but, above all, charmed with the scented air they inhaled at every breath.

"What can this sweet scent be?" said they.

For an answer to the question, Vernor led them to the great aisle, along which the procession had passed; there they found the native of their meadow lands, the sweet-rush, which being trodden under foot by the crowd, exhaled this delicious scent. Reluctantly they left the venerable edifice, and following their pastor, entered a large manufactory, whither the general festivity extended not.

With this scene the children were not pleased; the appearance of the children of the factory gave them pain, and Vernor perceiving that a view of the building, and an explanation of the machinery, would scarcely overbalance their unpleasant feelings, led them from the manufactory.

"I am going next to the public li-

brary," said he, "to exchange this volume —you may accompany me."

A gentleman greeted the pastor as he entered, with whom he engaged in conversation, after placing the children on one of the long benches beside the table. The number of books arranged on the shelves around them completely astonished the children, who had never before seen so large a collection. A volume of beautiful plates amused some of them until the pastor rejoined the party, when they communicated their surprise to him.

"This fine library," he replied, "contributes to the gratification of the greater part of the well-informed inhabitants of the city. By means of the large number of subscribers, the collection has been made at a very trifling expence to each individual—another proof of the advantage of united exertion; you doubtless remember our conversation on that subject last winter, when I proposed forming a village library?"

"Yes, sir," replied Fanny, "and you said that the plan was not yet abandoned."

"Nor is it; but come, children, it is time to think of returning; the days are short, and you must find your way home without me; first let us take some refreshment."

They proceeded to a reputable inn; the host welcomed Vernor, and the children, hitherto unmindful of fatigue and hunger, enjoyed with full zest the fare the kitchen afforded.

The castle was seen from one of the windows of the inn; the view of the building recalled Vernor's promise to the young party, who presently reminded him of the anecdote he had engaged to relate.

"I shall refer you to Mr. G." replied the pastor; then turning to his host, he requested him to relate the story of "*the humane turnkey.*"

"Willingly," replied Mr. G.—"A few years since, an unfortunate female, convicted at our assizes of a criminal offence, was ordered for transportation; between

the time of the trial and that of embarkation, the poor creature became a mother. At length orders arrived for her, with other convicts, to be conveyed on board the transport, when, to her distraction, the officers of the prison refused to let the infant accompany her; insensible to her agony, they proceeded to remove the mother, alleging that they had no orders respecting the child. But so deep an impression had the scene made upon one of the turnkeys of the prison, that, accustomed as he was to scenes of wretchedness, he set off immediately for London, appealed to one of the king's secretaries, and finally obtained an order for the child to be restored to its mother. After travelling several hundred miles, he arrived at the port where the vessel lay, just in time to restore the infant to its parent before the convoy sailed. This man, now no more," added Mr. G. " is still remembered and revered among us, under the name of *the humane turnkey.*"

" Thank you, my friend," replied Ver-

nor; "I always listen to the tale with interest, knowing it to be a fact *. I must see these young people through the town." he added, "then I will return hither; some gentlemen have appointed to meet me on business. Now, fare ye well, my good children," said the pastor, as they passed under the gates of S——; "walk steadily home; to-morrow evening I hope to return to Uston."

CHAPTER II.

THE village of Uston was strikingly beautiful, and its situation afforded singular local advantages to the inhabitants, who followed various trades and occupations, in addition to agricultural pursuits. A noble navigable river opened a communication with the neighbouring towns and

* Norfolk Chronicle, January 30, 1813.

the more distant metropolis. It bordered on an extensive forest, and from the brow of the hills that sheltered the village from the north, the ocean was, in clear weather, distinctly visible.

The ancestors of Trevor and Vernor, attracted by the beauties of its situation, had long since fixed their residence in the village. Numerous valuable institutions, and a series of useful establishments, founded in the neighbourhood, still recalled their memory with gratitude and affection to the community which still reaped the fruit of their exertions; notwithstanding, much was left undone; and it fell to the lot of their descendants to afford assistance of a nature less agreeable to their neighbours, than the friendly solicitude which had not been extended beyond the improvement of their lands, or the general advancement of trade.

Hereditary virtue was the sole birthright of the pastor. Such likewise was the most valued inheritance of Trevor, yet to his share was added an ample portion

of wealth. Gladly would he have shared his purse with Vernor, but the latter preferred to depend on his own exertions; thus preserving his warm attachment to Trevor from the suspicion of an interested source.

In early youth, the correct feelings of the pastor and his friend had been wounded by the perception of that repulsive vulgarity and vice, too frequently found in scenes apparently remote from all temptation to iniquity. To such painful considerations succeeded an ardent desire to banish these unseemly guests from scenes so lovely. They felt how doubly endeared to them their favourite Uston would become, when they should behold the little society dwelling in peace and genuine liberty, and witness around them, " in happy contrast, the simplicity of man and the exuberance of nature." These wishes gathered strength with increasing years, till at length manhood executed the projects which youth had imagined.

The task of extirpating ignorance and

sensuality, and of introducing information and virtue, was one of no inconsiderable difficulty; but they entered upon it with proportional vigour, prepared to meet ingratitude, or even insult.

Attention was principally directed towards the young, on whom their hopes were fixed, expecting to find, in the next generation, that propriety of conduct it was perhaps hopeless to recommend to the present. To the latter they could offer only friendly admonition, never incautiously obtruding even this. As a great landholder, Trevor possessed considerable influence, but he waved this advantage; for the attempt to *compel* men to be virtuous he considered as arrogant as it would prove ineffectual. "Force may make hypocrites, but never converts."

General esteem rewarded these strenuous exertions, consoling them under repeated disappointment, while, with unwearied patience, they pursued the noble undertaking. Year succeeded year, and still they persisted; a charming family

was rising up around them, and at home each was eminently successful and blessed.

To these happy times succeeded years of bitter sorrow; misfortune visited first the family at the parsonage. From a state of moderate competence, attained by honourable industry, they were suddenly plunged into distressing pecuniary embarrassment, through the treachery of a relative. For this faithless man, Vernor, with less prudence than good intention, had unwarily become surety for the payment of a considerable sum, and the stipulated contract not being performed by the appointed time, a heavy penalty was incurred. The defaulter, breaking through the most sacred engagements, secretly disposed of his effects, and quitting the kingdom to avoid the penalty, left the storm to burst over his unsuspecting friend.

The whole of Vernor's property was insufficient to meet the exigence: after he had surrendered every thing, a heavy debt remained to be liquidated from his annual

stipend as curate of Uston; scarcely escaping arrest.

By a system of severe economy, seconded by great industry, the pastor and his exemplary wife contrived for a time to procure some portion of their former domestic comfort. Yet eventually every plan for increasing the means of support entirely failed, their distress augmented, and the future began to wear a tremendous aspect. With anguish of heart they now looked upon those children who had hitherto fulfilled every hope that rational parental love could form. How could their growing virtues and talents be cultivated with success, while the daily toil of both parents scarcely sufficed to procure food and clothing? yet on the cultivation of these talents depended their future welfare.

Some time passed on without materially altering their condition; at length—the long-dreaded event—the rector died for whom Vernor filled the curacy, to which

his family now wholly looked for support.

In anxious suspense they waited to hear the new incumbent announced; a stranger to the village received the appointment, and the man who had devoted his best years and powers to the service of an indebted community received intimation that his services would be required no longer.

A removal from the parsonage would of course follow. Unwilling, on account of his children, to quit the country, if any occupation could be obtained there, Vernor pursued every lawful measure that invention could devise to obtain it. But all to whom he applied returned a discouraging answer; all indeed proffered their kind wishes—who could repress them in behalf of one whose heart and purse were at once open to every sufferer?

Vernor determined, in consequence of the repeated failure of his expectations, to remove to S——, the extent of that city offering a wider field for exertion; and

thither he went to engage an abode to receive his family.

On the evening of his return from this unwelcome errand, spent with fatigue and sorrow, he rested awhile on the brow of the hill that towered above the village; his eye fixed on his own charming abode—what a contrast with that they were soon to inhabit! Here he remained, plunged in melancholy, till insensibly the charms of the surrounding scene, gilded by the last beams of the setting sun, engaged his attention, soothing care by the reflections they raised; but on the approach of his children, who had recognised him at a distance, and ran gaily to meet him, rejoicing at his return, a bitter feeling of self-reproach stung him to the heart. "Alas, my children!" was his only reply to their cordial greeting, and quickening his step, hurried from distressing remembrances.

Presently his wife appeared.—"Behold the gift of Heaven!" she exclaimed, fervently grasping his hand, into which she

thrust an open letter. His eye glanced over it; he read—enough to chase every care, every solicitude away.

The letter contained advice of his presentation to the valuable living of D——, an adjacent village. In the most respectful terms, the writer expressed his sense of Vernor's past services to the people under his pastoral care, and his own conviction that, in presenting him to the rectory of D——, he should be the means of conferring a public benefit. He lamented that, in consequence of a long absence from that part of the country, he had, till within a few days, been entirely ignorant of his intended removal from Uston; and concluded with expressing his best wishes for the future prosperity of himself and family.

Inadequate would be any description of the gratitude, the joy, the endearments that followed—of their projects for future years—of their plans for increasing usefulness.

The satisfaction of Vernor was not a

little augmented by the discovery that his efforts had not been deemed worthless by the gentleman who thus seasonably stepped forward to extricate him from difficulty; he rejoiced too at finding himself remembered after a long interval by one for whom he had ever entertained a high consideration.

General congratulations followed this happy event; the poor, at least, rejoiced sincerely; the prosperity of the pastor was hailed by his people as an earnest of good to themselves.

To remove from Uston was still necessary; but an abode, delightfully situated, and replete with every comfort, awaited them at D——. The final arrangements were made; the successor, appointed to the charge Vernor was about to resign, had already arrived in the village, and the day of departure was agreed upon between the parties. This was fixed for the first day of the ensuing month.

"My dear Elizabeth," said the pastor, when he returned from settling the busi-

ness, "all is now *certainly fixed;* Harman has agreed to our proposal, and on the first day of September we leave this roof."

Vain calculation upon certainty at the distance of twenty days—the morrow's sun was yet unrisen! The first of September witnessed the dissolution of these fair visions of felicity; on that memorable day his beloved wife departed to a different mansion, whither, in a few weeks, she was followed successively by all her children. Death had rapidly swept them away! an epidemical fever ravaged the village, and they became the first of its victims. Sadness and consternation spread around the neighbourhood, but the misfortune of the pastor remained unequalled.

The sympathy this event called forth was heightened by the remembrance of the manner in which the contagion was communicated to the parsonage. Agnes, the eldest child of Vernor, having heard that a poor aged widow was sick and in great distress, hastened to carry to her a small

sum of money, which she had very recently received to employ as her own inclination should prompt. The nature of the poor woman's disorder was yet unsuspected by any one, and Agnes was allowed to approach the bed, and to remain some time beside it, unconscious of the danger. A few days after she became seriously indisposed, nor was the dreadful malignity of the disease discovered, until the contagion, which she had herself imbibed, was communicated to the rest of the family, of whom Vernor alone survived.

Religious sentiment, in its most elevated state, dwelt within the bosom of Vernor, but that allowed his tender spirit, crushed by the awful stroke, to remain awhile "hushed in patient wretchedness." Where then was his friend during these rapid vicissitudes? Far from his native village. To the regret of the surrounding country, Trevor had long since abruptly quitted Uston, without assigning a reason for the measure, even to his chosen friend —a circumstance not a little distressing to

the latter, whose fears were confirmed by the subsequent sale of the family estates. The letters he received from Trevor maintained the same impenetrable reserve, while they continued to express his wonted regard for the pastor, and the same lively interest in his welfare.

To resume his melancholy history—Vernor continued for awhile in entire seclusion at the parsonage, from time to time sending relief to those of his indigent neighbours who were suffering the most severely from the fatal contagion. For himself, the first wish Vernor had power to feel was to end his days under the roof where he once enjoyed the sweet fellowship of family affection. When time had soothed him to sufficient composure, he arranged a plan for the accomplishment of his purpose, and proceeded to request the consent of the parties concerned, to permit an exchange between himself and Hannan, his appointed successor. Assent being immediately given, Vernor next

proposed to Harman to exchange the valuable rectory of D—— for the curacy of Uston, with peculiar delicacy urging his compliance as the means of rendering his own condition less desolate.

Harman, a man whom misfortune had bereaved of every possession save patience and integrity, refused to make this unequal agreement, entreating him to wait until time had lessened the pressure of this overwhelming stroke, suggesting that hereafter he might need the wealth that now he rejected. This refusal, honourable to Harman, tended to increase the distress of Vernor. Again he urged his request; Harman then consented, overcome by the persuasive appeal to his parental love—" *You* are still a father—your children need an earthly inheritance—*mine* are received into the bosom of the Eternal."

Henceforth the sole delight of Vernor consisted in promoting the happiness of others; his own was irretrievably impaired. In calm dejection he improved the

passing time, looking onwards to futurity with unceasing hope, in anticipation of the period when he should rejoin his beloved family. Still, the uncertainty in which he continued, respecting the condition of his friend Trevor, often excited feelings of harassing suspense. At length these were for ever chased, by a summons to attend him in London. He hastened to behold the companion of his early and happy years, yet it was only to receive his last farewell. Vernor arrived in time sufficient to give and receive assurances of unchanged affection, and to promise a faithful observance of his last request—to extend to his orphan children that friendship which had united their parents.

A few hours after Trevor had ceased to breathe, a letter in his own handwriting was, by particular injunction of the deceased, delivered to Vernor. In this epistle the long-desired explanation of the past was given in full detail. The magnanimity which had induced Trevor to remain so long silent respecting his own

affairs was now discovered; it raised the admiration of the pastor to the highest pitch; but for the knowledge of this secret he had much anguish of heart to endure, on learning what had been for years the fate of his lost friend.

Such were the scenes amidst which the pastor had passed youth and maturity; let us return to the period when we find the venerable man, true to his early principles and feelings, welcoming the children of Trevor to his peaceful roof, and reaping the fruit of their once-mutual exertions, in the virtue and gratitude of the peasantry of Uston.

CHAPTER III.

THE affairs which had drawn Vernor to S—— could not be so speedily adjusted as to allow of his return at the time mentioned on parting with the children at the

gates of the city. Many days passed on before they had the gratification of seeing him again.

His return was soon followed by the arrival of Mary and Algernon.

With unutterable feelings Vernor welcomed the travellers, whose sensations were equally strong on meeting their revered guardian, and on regaining the paternal roof—such they had long considered the dwelling of their father's friend.

Four years had elapsed since Mary's last visit to the pastor; her brother had never returned to Uston since the final departure of his family from the village. From that period, when first he entered upon active life, disappointment and vexation had attended this unfortunate young man, till a legacy, recently bequeathed, had placed himself and Mary above the reach of want.

This circumstance enabled the latter to accomplish the wish nearest her heart—this was, to return with Algernon to Uston, and there endeavour, by their mutual

exertions, to cheer the declining years of Vernor. She trusted that in his society her brother would lose the painful remembrance of past disasters, which she, perhaps too partially, attributed to a combination of adverse circumstances, but which Algernon never failed to impute to his own misconduct. His sister's affectionate remonstrances were ineffectual to chase the bitter feelings of self-condemnation, and restore his long-lost tranquillity.

When the travellers had rested, Vernor much desired to receive from Mary a detailed account of the events that had occurred since they parted. From the brief accounts which distance had permitted him to receive, he was aware that she had suffered deeply; but the presence of Algernon, the cause of those sufferings, forbade the inquiry, and the conversation turned upon a less painful subject.

Mary, when visiting Vernor at Uston, had entered warmly into his projects respecting the little villagers; the expectation of contributing her share of know-

ledge to their improvement formed no inconsiderable part of the pleasure she expected to derive from a residence amongst them. She eagerly inquired for her young acquaintances, and expressed her hope that they would recollect her.

Assured that they were anxiously desirous to see her again, she asked whether Fanny Welford had been informed of their determination?

"Yes, my dear girl," replied the pastor; "the little orphan knows her happy destination; and believe me, she is worthy of such interest as you have uniformly taken in her welfare."

Several domestic arrangements were requisite before the family-circle could resume their several pursuits: these concluded, Fanny Welford became an inhabitant of the parsonage. A slight illness which followed her arrival called forth the tender solicitude of Mary, and disturbed, though for a short interval only, the tranquillity of the family.

Fanny was the only daughter of a late respectable tradesman of the village, a man who had been highly esteemed by Vernor. She had been deprived in infancy of maternal care, and during Mary's last visit to Uston, her surviving parent was taken away by death. Himself a man of excellent understanding, Welford had resolved to give his child that cultivation of mind which might, in future years, enable her to obtain subsistence in a liberal and satisfactory manner, should he not be sufficiently fortunate in trade to leave adequate means of support. Most zealously did he promote the higher interest of his child, while, for her sake, he also pursued his business with alacrity; and had he been spared some few years longer, Fanny would, in all probability, have inherited considerable property. But he was cut off at a critical period; and his affairs, though in admirable train for success under his own guidance, became perplexed when committed to other hands; eventually an inconsiderable sum was alone obtained for Fanny.

Welford foresaw too late that this must be the inevitable result of the manner in which his property had been employed, and the apprehension embittered the last moments of his life. By storing the mind of his child with useful information, and cherishing the germs of virtue in her bosom, he had hoped to prepare her for every vicissitude of fortune, and to guard her against the dangers and temptations of poverty, which, to his mind, conveyed no apprehension so appalling as that a fall from prosperity should entail a degradation of sentiment and character. But now, from the known character of the relative to whom he was obliged to commit her, he dreaded the overthrow of all his anxious labours.

The pastor, who, together with Mary, frequently visited Welford during his illness, was deeply affected by the discovery of the circumstances which thus weighed down his mind; but the one was too aged, and the other, at that time, too

poor, to assume the entire charge of the orphan.

"My friend," said Vernor, "be comforted; I am far advanced in my course, it is true; but while my life is spared, I will watch over the morals of your child, and combine the rectitude of conduct you require with so many 'venerable associations,' that a departure from it shall be considered as the greatest dishonour and ingratitude."

"Ah! should I ever be enabled," exclaimed Mary, "how sacred a duty should I consider it, to endeavour to execute your intentions!"

"This is *charity* indeed," replied Welford, emphatically; "believe me, pride has no part in my solicitude for my beloved child—no, my ambition looks beyond the present world—it was to render her virtuous like thee, my young friend, that I aspired—oh! receive a parent's benediction!"

After the loss of her father the little girl

was so deeply dejected, that Vernor was induced to take her for a time to his own house, where she remained until it was advisable to confide her to her uncle.

When, on the final settlement of Welford's concerns, Fanny's portion was discovered to be so inconsiderable, this relation determined to bring her up to assist his wife in domestic concerns, meanly claiming the trifling interest of her property until she should be better worth maintaining; although, let it be observed, the discovery of her usefulness and docility had induced him to pursue the plan.

This arrangement, which destined her to a mode of life little superior to that of a farmer's servant, though dishonourable to her uncle, was, in effect, of high benefit to Fanny; she remained under the eye of Vernor, who seldom passed many days without calling at the farm to see her, and by continued remonstrances, at last prevailed with her relations to allow her leisure sufficient to attend with the rest of his pupils for instruction.

Thus passed the time until Mary Trevor was, by a sudden change of circumstances, enabled to redeem her promise.

At first the relations of Fanny refused to give her up; but consent was finally obtained, when they discovered that Mary was prepared to enter into a legal engagement to provide for her entirely, either by placing her in a situation to obtain her own subsistence, or by providing for her at her individual cost. Miss Trevor judged this security needful, to prevent the future change of mind, or interference, of her legal guardian.

Anxious to deserve the blessing pronounced by Welford, Mary consulted with her venerable friend how they could most effectually benefit his child. The education of youth appearing to them a most honourable and useful profession, to this they destined her, if, in future years, such should appear to herself a desirable employment.

In order to obtain a correct idea of her habits, propensities, and acquisitions, Mary

passed some time in familiar intercourse with her pupil, previously to entering upon a course of instruction; sincere and unaffected, the characters imprinted upon her mind were easily read, and Mary perceived with joy that she was docile, affectionate, and diligent, and that her heart glowed with the warmest gratitude to her friends. With regard to moral principle, Vernor had so effectually implanted the love of rectitude, that Mary foresaw little difficulty in facilitating the expansion of every virtuous sentiment.

Respecting literary instruction, finding that Fanny had acquired many ideas without much order or connexion, she resolved to beware especially of encouraging a desultory course of application, the disadvantages of which she had personally experienced, though in her own case the wonder consisted in her having acquired any knowledge, rather than in its not having been obtained with methodical precision.

Perceiving that in Fanny's eagerness to

obtain information, she often defeated her own purposes, by grasping too many subjects at once, Mary believed that the most effectual correction of this habit would be the attainment of some portion of knowledge respecting the mechanism and operations of that mind which she so much desired to cultivate. Trusting to Fanny's previous stock of ideas, she proceeded to unfold, in terms familiar as the subject would allow, the theory of the human mind.

As a relaxation from this study, she added an introduction to that of music, finding that the piano had all-powerful attractions for Fanny, and believing that the science, moderately pursued, would prove eminently serviceable and delightful.

By prevailing with Algernon to initiate the young student into the first principles of chemistry, she opened to her an unbounded field of present amusement and of future investigation. This appeared for the present sufficient application, and each day Fanny's improvement advanced.

Pleased with her aptitude in seizing each new idea, Algernon entered with interest into his sister's plans for her improvement, and proposed to instruct her in drawing, that Mary might enjoy more leisure.

Delighted to perceive her brother entering voluntarily upon active pursuits, Mary anticipated his entire restoration to health and happiness; this hope, together with the visible satisfaction which the pastor enjoyed in the society of his young friends, completed the fulfilling of her wishes.

Sometimes she assisted her venerable friend in the instruction of the little rustics, or listened in silent attention to his simple, yet beautiful exhortations to wisdom and virtue. Attracted by the eloquence of the teacher, Algernon occasionally joined the circle; insensibly he became desirous of contributing his share of assistance to the advancement of an object so interesting, and with increasing usefulness felt returning self-approbation. To gratify his sister, Algernon, who was eminently skilled in drawing, began taking sketches

of several scenes in the neighbourhood, peculiarly dear to her from former events associated with them. This occupation was interrupted for some time by an excursion to S——, and thence into an adjoining county, whither he was accompanied by the pastor.

"You are at a loss for your instructor," said Mary to Fanny, the morning after his departure; "come, let me hear how much you can remember of what he has already taught?"

Fanny.—Mr. Algernon has shown me such a number of wonderful things, or *experiments*, as he calls them, that I cannot remember all; but the first I saw was the change of a blue colour to green, by the addition of an alkali. He bruised some violets in water; when the liquor had stood long enough to imbibe the colour, a little potash dissolved in water was mixed with it, and the liquid became green. Into another portion of the blue liquor he poured vinegar, which produced a red colour. We tried this several times with

the juice of red cabbage, litmus, and mallow-flowers, which gave a blue colour to the water, and became *green* when the alkali was added; *red* when the acid was mixed with it. He told me that it is the general property of alkalis to cause this change in blue vegetable colours. There are three alkalis—potash, soda, and ammonia.

Mary.—And what said he of the acids?

Fanny.—Let me consider—the acid, which was vinegar, caused the blue to turn red—oh! it is the property of acids to turn the blue, the colour of vegetables, red; I saw several acids, and tried their effect.

Mary.—Of what kind were your acids?

Fanny.—There are vegetable, mineral, and animal acids; I used the first two. Vegetable acids are the weakest: among these are vinegar, or the acetous; oxalic, made from wood-sorrel; and citric, which is lemon-juice. Mr. Algernon told me that this acid, saturated with the vegetable alkali, salt of wormwood, forms the saline

draught which he made for me when I had the fever—why do you smile?

Mary.—To observe how readily you recollect terms which, without some agreeable associations, you would call hard words.

Fanny.—I was much pleased to know of what my medicine was composed; and you know that I have heard so often the botanical name of wood-sorrel, from which the acid takes its title.

Mary.—So true it is, that one species of knowledge is serviceable in attaining another—but to our acids. Algernon has those of a mineral kind carefully labelled and secured in phials, I think?

Fanny.—He bade me be very careful of touching vitriolic, nitric, and another kind of acid, which I forget.

Mary.—The muriatic?

Fanny.—Yes; these acids are corrosive, unless diluted with water, and they have a strong attraction for that fluid. He showed many proofs of this great principle in che-

mistry: first, by dissolving camphor in spirits of wine, which united, and became a clear liquid to the eye; then water and spirit were combined. Alkali and water, and other salts, called neutral, united equally well, and disappeared in the water. To the mixture of camphor and spirit, Mr. Algernon then bade me add water. I expected to see it remain clear, as in the other trial with water and spirit of wine; but the liquor became white and turbid, and a substance fell to the bottom of the phial. On pouring off the liquor I found this substance to be the camphor, which had disappeared on being put into the spirits of wine. Mr. Algernon desired me to consider the cause of the camphor reappearing. I said, owing to the water being added.

Mary.—Very well; but I guess you forgot the proper terms.

Fanny.—I did, and was soon taught that the spirit had more attraction for the water than the camphor, which it left to unite itself with this fluid, and the cam-

phor, thus disengaged, fell, or was *precipitated*. Another instance of chemical attraction I saw, in pouring an acid upon an alkali and upon a piece of limestone; a bubbling and noise took place, which he called *effervescence.*

Mary.—How did he account for this?

Fanny.—The alkali and lime both contain a particular kind of air, which he called *fixed air*: the lime and acid have an attraction for each other; as the lime dissolves, the gas escapes.

Mary.—I was yesterday at Mrs. Barlow's; she found that her beer had become sour in consequence of the late warm weather. I inquired if she had a little salt of tartar, which is an alkali made from the lees of wine. She had some; I recommended to put a few grains of it into the beer which she had drawn: a considerable hissing noise took place. On tasting the liquor the acidity was no longer perceptible: account for this effect—you have learned enough.

Fanny.—I think the noise was an effer-

vescence caused by the mixture of the acid beer with the alkali, and that the fixed air escaped; but I do not know how the beer was improved by it.

Mary.—The acid was neutralized by the alkali; you are yet unacquainted with that term. But, Fanny, you see that the end of these curious experiments, or trials of the effect which one material has upon another, is to benefit persons, not merely to amuse the curious. Many of the various arts of cookery are the discoveries of the studious to improve domestic comforts: the cook knows that sugar will preserve fruit, and that it must be kept from the air; but a person who is acquainted with the properties of various bodies, and their mutual influence, may add theory to practice. Such an one knows that sugar is antiseptic, or resists putrefaction—that the contact of atmospheric air tends to promote putrefaction—that moisture and heat assist it. If the preserves fail, any one acquainted with these effects could

easily prevent the repetition of the accident by advising a better method. I have given you a familiar instance, but numerous and important ones will occur as you increase your knowledge of chemistry; the dyer, the soap-maker, the calico-printer, the manufacturer of cotton and linen goods, and various other trades, are indebted to this science.

Fanny.—I shall be very glad when Mr. Algernon returns, that he may teach me more.

Mary.—He is enjoying a very agreeable journey; you would not abridge his pleasure?

Fanny.—Oh no!

Mary.—He will be gratified to find you remember his lessons; but more so if you have improved.

Fanny.—How can I?

Mary.—I will assist you; fetch vitriolic acid from Algernon's closet, and a phial half-filled with water.

"Grasp the phial of water in one hand,

and the vitriol in the other," said Mary, on Fanny's return; "they both appear cold to the touch—do they not?"

Fanny.—Yes; I brought the water from the pump, and the acid from a closet which is very cool.

Mary.—Pour a little of the vitriol gently into the water—why do you not continue, my dear?

Fanny.—The phial grows warm!

Mary.—But go on pouring the acid.

Fanny.—I find the phial grows quite hot to my hand.

Mary.—Stop then; to what cause, think you, must we attribute this unexpected increase of heat?

Fanny.—To the mixture; but how heat should issue from two cold liquids I cannot imagine.

Mary.—The fact is, that the heat really did exist in these fluids, though not perceptibly.

Fanny.—What, such a quantity of heat as to be unpleasant to feel; and yet separate, not even warm to the touch!

Mary.—Even so; this fixed, inactive state is termed *latent heat.* In one or both these fluids, the quantity of heat you experienced existed in a latent state; it was set free by the two fluids forming a mixture, the powers of which, in retaining heat, are less than they possessed when in a separate state.

Fanny.—If one could deprive water alone of its latent heat, how curious it would be!

Mary.—That does the winter's cold most effectually—what is ice?

Fanny.—Frozen water.

Mary.—It loses, at a certain temperature of the air, the quantity of heat necessary to retain its fluidity, and assumes its solid form, which is ice. The coming winter will offer a variety of interesting observations for you; endeavour to retain the terms you have learned, and connect them clearly with the objects they represent.

Fanny.—I will try—oh! the first thing I shall repeat to Mr. Algernon will be this account of latent heat.

CHAPTER IV.

One morning, soon after Algernon's return, while Mary was engaged, as usual, with Fanny, he laid before them, on the table, an accurate drawing of S—— cathedral. The view was immediately recognized; and Algernon, having enjoyed for a few minutes their surprise and pleasure, left them to pursue their studies.

"My dear," said Mary, "you seem much charmed with this drawing; tell me what faculty of the mind is the *immediate* cause of your pleasure?"

"I should suppose that it is perception, since that word denotes the cognizance which the mind takes of the objects of sense."

"And what is the result of this operation of the mind? can you not tell?"

Fanny hesitated, not perceiving the bent of the question.

"Is not an *idea* of the drawing, the present object of perception, formed in the mind? This *idea, picture,* or *pattern* (which latter are literal interpretations of the term)—this idea bears the same relation to the real object of perception as the *drawing* does to the real cathedral. It is of importance to remember, that on the clearness and accuracy of your perceptions will depend the clearness of your ideas; as on the proper exercise of one mental faculty depends, in some measure, the vigour of the rest, so, on the correctness of ideas derived from perception, will depend the precision of our conceptions, judgments, &c. You understand me?"

"I trust so," replied Fanny.

"And by the exercise of what faculty are you able to do this?"

"By attention."

"Certainly; will you endeavour to define the term?"

"So far as I understand," replied Fan-

ny, after some reflection, "attention is the power which the mind possesses of fixing itself upon the consideration of one train of objects or ideas, to the exclusion of all others foreign to those under contemplation."

"Very well; now mark the intimate connexion of one faculty with another. Attention is of the same importance to accuracy of perception as *perception* is to the formation of accurate *ideas*. A habit of paying strict attention to each pursuit we engage in is invaluable, whether we pursue the study of languages, of arithmetic, of history, or, in short, of any branch of information. In active life too it is of singular importance; much ignorance and imbecility in every station might be avoided, were attention duly exercised. Attention, you say, was the means of your understanding my instructions; but that act of understanding is itself a distinct process.

"Westminster Abbey," she continued, "in its plan and style of building, greatly

resembles S—— Cathedral, but far exceeds the latter in extent and grandeur. Do not my words immediately call up the idea of a building corresponding to the description?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"And to what power of the mind are you indebted for this idea?"

"To *conception;* since, allowing for greater grandeur and extent, I can *conceive* of the building which you described, by means of the ideas of cathedrals in general, which I have acquired by the sight or *perception* of the building before us."

"And when I say, 'call to mind the antique gates of the cathedral close,' I tell you to exert the same faculty."

"How so, ma'am?"

"Because," replied Mary, "*conception* presents to the mind ideas of the absent objects of perception, as well as enables it to acquire new ideas, by means of a new combination of those already stored up in the mind. It was the belief that you possessed sufficient power of conception for

my purpose, that decided me to lead your attention, first of all, to the investigation of this subject; in forming this, or any given determination, how would you proceed?"

"I should exercise the faculty of judgment," replied Fanny; "I should compare advantages with disadvantages, and draw an inference or conclusion which would be termed a judgment; the process of forming which is called deliberating or judging."

"Is the faculty of judgment often called into action?"

"Continually; it decides on the truth or propriety of every event, every affirmation, every subject, of which the different powers of the mind take cognizance."

"My love, you appear to have a predilection for that term, 'takes cognizance;' why do you make use of it?"

"Only because it expresses my meaning better than any other I could call up. I mean by it, that the mind acquaints or informs itself of a subject, or that it takes

any object under consideration or contemplation."

"Since you understand its meaning, Fanny, the term doubtless is preferable to another, more elegant, if that were less intelligible; an increase of information will greatly augment facility of expression.

"*Imagination,*" said Mary, returning to the subject, "is a more brilliant faculty of the mind than those we have been considering; to say that a man has no imagination, is to suggest the idea that he is dull, and devoid of a copious store of powers that enliven and benefit society. By means of imagination, the mind can either create ideas that have no exact and literal representatives, or arrange the ideas of real objects in an artificial train; of the former class are the ideas formed of the fabulous animals of antiquity; of the latter are the fictions of poetry, and those productions of genius termed in general works of imagination. The power of abstraction is essential to imagination, so are

the powers of judgment and taste; you remember, without doubt, that *abstraction* denotes 'the power which the mind possesses of separating an idea from all other ideas that accompany it in its real existence.' The faculties can at will be employed in the creation of new ideas, or in arranging new trains of ideas, which employment of them is denominated *fancy*. Fancy requires *imagination* to provide materials for its airy erections, *judgment* to prevent absurdity or inconsistency in its plan, and *taste* to dispose the embellishments. Here we may again recur to our first principles; yet not to go back further than *conception*, it may be remarked, that on clear and vigorous conceptions in the reader depend much of the force and beauty of works of imagination. Now tell me what the term *reflection* implies, when used in connexion with this subject, which (remember the word) is a branch of *metaphysics*?"

"I will," said Fanny; "does not re-

flection, in this sense, signify the power which the mind possesses of examining its own operations?"

"You are right; now, in the last place, tell me what faculty you exerted in replying to the previous questions?"

"Memory."

"Yes, it was the memory of conceptions formed in our frequent conversations on the subject of the different mental faculties, that enabled you to reply to my questions in a manner sufficiently correct to satisfy me that I have not been unintelligible in my explanations; had you repeated *verbatim* definitions learned from books, without conceiving the ideas which the words represented, it would have been the *memory of perception* only that you exerted. It is of consequence to bear this distinction in mind, lest we deceive ourselves by mistaking the remembrance of certain phrases for the acquisition of the ideas they convey. I believe that you have yet to be made acquainted with the wonderful principle of the *association of ideas*—

I mean theoretically; for you, and every one else, are every day unconsciously indebted to its operations. By means of this principle, ideas are connected one with another, so that one idea being called up, a train connected with it in the mind, by some accidental circumstance (often of inconsiderable moment), immediately follows. Your own words afford me an example; you said to me yesterday—'I never see any cotton manufacture now, without thinking of the poor, pale children in the factory at S——;' that is, the idea of that *manufacture* is connected or associated with the idea of *those children.* When you become better acquainted with the nature of this principle, you will find that its strength is proportioned to the vividness of impression; you will learn its vast practical importance, and the powerful aid it lends to the acquisition of every kind of information. Now practise your lesson on the piano while I am absent; our good neighbour, Mrs. Barlow, was taken ill

yesterday; I must go and inquire about her."

Mary soon reached Mrs. Barlow's cottage, which was situated very near the parsonage. She found her old friend seriously ill; the strong hectic flush in her cheeks, the burning heat of her hands, her extreme thirst and violent headache, were tokens of a considerable degree of fever.

From the replies that Mrs. Barlow gave to her inquiries, Mary saw that her senses began to be affected by the disease; and feeling for the forlorn condition of Maria, her daughter, too young and inexperienced to be a proper attendant in a case of serious illness, she resolved to remain with them that night at least.

Returning home for a few minutes, to inform the pastor of her intention, Fanny was immediately dispatched to request the attendance of Mr. Wilson, the most skilful medical man in the neighbourhood.

Vernor highly approved of Mary's inten-

tion of watching over the preservation of a life so valuable as that of the worthy woman for whom their fears were called forth, since she must otherwise fall under the care of any attendant that Maria might be able to procure.

When Mr. Wilson had seen Mrs. Barlow, he confirmed the fears which her friends had entertained; she was in no inconsiderable danger. Three successive nights Mary watched beside her with the sorrowful Maria; on the fourth day the delirium subsided, and Mr. Wilson declared that her pulse was considerably lowered.

From that time Mrs. Barlow gradually amended, though a continuance of Mary's attendance was requisite for many succeeding weeks. Fanny was occasionally called in to assist Maria Barlow, or to share the watchings of the sick-room.

Mary employed these opportunities in impressing the minds of both with the importance of a judicious care of the sick; she taught them to detect the symptoms

of fever; related the directions she had heard given by medical men for the treatment of those suffering under it; charged them, wherever they had any influence, to dissuade from the fatal practice of neglecting the commencement of disease, and to pay an implicit obedience to the directions of professional attendants, the neglect of which latter admonition too often renders the most skilful advice of no avail.

When Mrs. Barlow had recovered sufficiently to be entrusted to the care of Maria, her kind attendant, after promising to be still a constant visitor, returned home, followed by the gratitude which her sedulous attendance had excited.

The medicines and domestic preparations which Fanny had seen given to Mrs. Barlow, she had observed with more than curiosity; she wished to know their composition, and listened eagerly when Mary gave her opinion, or mentioned the various remedies that science had discovered, and applied for different diseases.

Having gone with Vernor to S——, she

was desired to bring home some pepper-mint water from a druggist's; the different abbreviated labels of the drugs in the shop tending not a little to attract her attention in order to decipher them. She gathered wild peppermint on her return by the river-side, and endeavoured, by the addition of water, to procure a liquid similar to that she had purchased.

"What are you studying there so anxiously?" said Algernon, as Fanny stood observing and tasting her infusion.

Fanny.—I was told that this plant is used for making the strong-scented water I bought this morning, and I am trying to make some like it.

"How can you possibly make pepper-mint water!" exclaimed Algernon, laughing; "come, tell me your method; where is your apparatus?"

Fanny.—Oh! I picked off the leaves, and poured water on them, but it will not do.

Algernon.—What, with cold water! I wonder that you did not try a hot infusion

or decoction; the heat would have brought out the strength of the herb.

Fanny.—Is mine an infusion?

Algernon.—Yes, a cold infusion; a decoction is boiling the herb to extract its virtues. Our common tea is an infusion of the leaves of the tea-tree in boiling water; you know Mary often inquires if the water is boiling, before she will pour it over the tea, so great is the power of heat in calling forth its strength.

Fanny.—How do the chemists make peppermint water?

Algernon.—By distilling the herb with water.

Algernon seized this opportunity of introducing a few more operations in this attractive science, hitherto unknown to his pupil; he described the various methods by which drugs are prepared for medical and other purposes; and so far as his apparatus allowed, performed the experiments he had described.

Fanny smiled at her own ignorance, when Algernon produced his apparatus for

distilling; he explained to her that the business of distillation is to separate the most volatile parts of *fluid* bodies—" The whole mixture," said he, " being placed in a vessel under which there is a fire, the most volatile parts first turn into vapour, and rise into a higher vessel, which, being kept cold by snow or water, condenses the evaporated fluid; after it is condensed, it drops into another vessel or receiver. The method," continued Algernon, " of separating the more volatile parts of *solid* bodies is by sublimation; for instance, gum benzoin is a substance. If we place this gum in a proper vessel, and apply heat, its volatile parts will rise; now, by means of a glass bell, or even a cone of paper, these volatile particles may be obtained; they are called *flowers*, or sublimates. If a sprig of rosemary be suspended within the cone, the flowers of benzoin will attach themselves to the leaves, and produce a beautiful effect."

" Oh! when will you show me this?" said Fanny.

"As soon as I can procure some of the benzoin; meantime, I will show you how to crystallize salts. You know the names of several; open those glasses, and shake out some of each kind."

Fanny.—I must mind that I do not confuse them, or I shall forget the names.

Algernon.—You need not have recourse to the labels; we must learn to know them at sight, for every salt, in crystallizing, assumes its own peculiar form.

Fanny.—What salt have I in my hand?

Algernon.—Nitre; it is in the form of a prism. That in your left hand is common salt; it has the shape of a cube. Salts too are variously affected by the atmospheric air: the vegetable alkali deliquesces.

Fanny.—What is that?

Algernon.—Dissolves and becomes fluid; it attracts the moisture from the air: soda partly deliquesces. On *nitre* the air has no effect, nor has it on common salt when it is pure. Come now, take an ounce of nitre, or nitrate of potass, which is its new

name; pour on it as much boiling water as it will take up; that is, *saturate* the water. It must stand till the water grows cold; as it cools, the nitre will appear in crystals. What form may we certainly expect to see the crystals?

Fanny.—They will be prisms; but shall we get back all the nitre?

Algernon.—Not by this method alone; we must pour the liquor from the solid crystals; this liquor is still saturated with the salt. Now, in order to regain all our nitre, we must *evaporate* the water; by means of heat the water will be converted into steam, and the nitre will remain in the vessel in its original prismatic form.

Fanny.—I shall remain and watch the crystals form in the water; pray return soon, and show me how to evaporate.

Attention was a faculty which Fanny had been in the constant habit of exercising, long before she was conscious that such a power existed in her mind. To the habit of paying attention she was indebted for her first ideas of geography, which were

imperceptibly acquired as she stood beside the table where Algernon and his sister were examining a ground plan of the parsonage-house, garden, and homestall.

Mary too possessed the happy talent of observation, by which, perceiving that her pupil was interested in the examination of the plan, she took occasion to explain the use and design of plans and maps in general, and by an easy transition, passed to the explanation of the science of geography.

The map of Uston parish was then produced, in which Fanny was delighted to mark each well-known spot. The use of plans and maps in aiding our conceptions of places beyond the reach of actual observation, but of which we desire to form an idea, was then shown, by producing the map of a neighbouring gentleman's estate, which had been left at the parsonage, for a reason foreign to the present subject to detail.

The information Fanny thus derived, respecting a spot which she had often in

vain desired to visit, fixed a pleasurable association in her mind with the idea of maps and geography.

"England Delineated" was soon after put into her hands; and commencing with the description of the county in which they resided, then proceeding to those adjoining, an acquaintance with the geography of her own country was easily obtained. Under the direction of Algernon, the little girl copied the maps of each county, as they came successively under consideration.

By this time the winter had set in with considerable severity, yet its long evenings passed swiftly away in pursuits exquisitely delightful to Mary. When the business of the day was ended, and the little circle drew round the fire, Vernor, animated with heartfelt cheerfulness, to which he had long been a stranger, contributed his share to the general entertainment.

Sometimes he would charm his young friends by his eloquent recital of passages from their favourite poets, in unison with

the season; sometimes literary or moral inquiries would occupy their hours, each party gratified to find congeniality of sentiment in the other.

On one side, the satisfaction arose from deriving a sanction to favourite sentiments from the approbation of a man whose feelings had been so deeply probed; on the other, experienced wisdom derived a benignant pleasure from perceiving what it considered as genuine truth, cherished in the bosom of inquiring youth.

Occasionally, to gratify the affection with which his young friends cherished the memory of their departed parents, the pastor would relate, though with faltering voice, tales of the days that could return no more. These relations were heard with the deepest interest; they were not without utility either. Algernon marked and admired the fortitude which such allusions to the past required from the pastor, and learned to blush for the weak indulgence of regret, which for years had palsied his own exertions.

One morning, when the lessons were ended, and Mary was expressing her approbation of the neat and correct manner in which the map of Yorkshire had been copied, the pastor entered, and presented her with a small spray, beautifully overgrown with moss which he had gathered in his walk. He differed from Mary's opinion respecting the species of the moss, and the time passed away till dinner in ascertaining it.

The microscope was brought out, and by its aid the point was decided; then the minute beauties of the plant were admired — a trifling incident; but by the observant Fanny, two advantages were derived from the short-lived dispute. She was impressed with respect, on hearing the genuine candour with which Vernor confessed his mistake and yielded the point to Mary, and became inspired with an ardent affection for the lovely science which is able to produce refined amusement and delightful knowledge from the bosom of the desert.

She had frequently heard her uncle, and others of vulgar minds, indulge in ignorant mirth at the expence of the few persons in the village who pursued the study; but the parent, whom in her present happy condition she still affectionately remembered, had provided an effectual check against the adoption of this prejudice, by forming an early association in her mind between the love of flowers and the remembrance, that

> "The beauties of the wilderness are *His*,
> Who makes so gay the solitary place,
> Where no eye sees them."

CHAPTER V.

At length Fanny having attained a competent knowledge of the geography of her own country, the terrestrial globe was uncovered, and her instructress proceeded to

give her a few comprehensive ideas of the subject in general—“ This figure,” she observed, laying her hand on the globe, “ is believed to be an accurate representation of that of the earth. This map of the world,” she continued, placing a large one before her, “ represents the same sphere divided into two hemispheres, flattened to this level surface; you will observe the proportion of land and water—together they occupy the surface of the whole earth. In geography, the ocean, like the land, is divided into many separate portions, for the convenience of identifying and describing any particular part; a large portion of the ocean retains that name, with the addition sometimes of the name of the country whose shores it washes, as the Indian Ocean; sometimes a local peculiarity serves as a distinction, as the Pacific or the Frozen Ocean. A part of the ocean divided from the main body by a strait receives the name of a sea, while that strait is itself a part of the ocean, though

it has received a distinguishing name, derived from its being confined within narrow bounds by land on either side. Gulfs, bays, creeks, are likewise parts of the ocean, receiving their several distinguishing forms from the projections and indentations of the adjacent shores."

The greater and lesser circles drawn upon the globe were next considered, which explanation occupied some considerable time. When the lesson was ended, Fanny searched for some time to discover the island of Great Britain, and when she at last found it, exclaimed—"Of that vast globe I am only acquainted with one little spot."

"Well," replied her good friend, "endeavour to remember all you have learned to-day, and you shall soon cross the English Channel, and pass over to France; this part of the ocean is probably called by that name in allusion to the channel, or bed of a river, to the banks of which the advancing coasts of England and France may be compared. To interest you more

strongly in the countries which we shall consider hereafter, you shall, before entering on the study of their minute internal divisions, have selected for you the most instructive parts of the account that Dr. Aikin gives of each in his 'Geographical Delineations.' At present draw the cover over the globe, and fold up the map; you may refer to them whenever you have occasion, and if you find, on thinking over your last lesson, that I have not explained any thing with sufficient clearness, you know where to seek me for further instruction."

The study of geography, thus begun, was vigorously pursued; it soon led the young student to desire an acquaintance with history, to which she found repeated allusions in all the books of geography to which she was referred.

For the present this desire was complied with only in part; knowledge respecting the historical events alluded to in her lessons was communicated by conversation,

and by the same medium curiosity was awakened respecting the celebrated characters of ancient and modern times.

Christmas-day was annually commemorated at the parsonage; after the services of religion were ended, a number of the poorest inhabitants of the village repaired, according to a long-established custom, to the dwelling of their minister. In the ample kitchen a table was spread, at which Vernor, the friend and protector of the unfortunate, presided.

After the frugal repast he conversed with his guests on the subjects most interesting to them, listening to the tale of distress, and administering consolation, or imparting friendly counsel, to those oppressed by anxiety or care.

On parting at the close of day, he dismissed them grateful and resigned; by a happy allusion to the declarations of *him* whose birth they had met to commemorate, he reminded suffering virtue of the bright prospects held up before it, till each,

filled with humble hope, returned in peace to his home.

In like manner the first day of each new year was devoted to the entertainment of the young people of the village. On this occasion he encouraged them to relate the principal events which had befallen them during the past year, by his observations assisting them to form just inferences from the transactions they related, and exhorted them to persevere in a rigid course of self-examination, not merely at the commencement of each successive year, but weekly and daily.

This season the pastor received his guests with more than wonted kindness; the increase of his own domestic comforts led him to desire additional happiness for all around.

The young party assembled, as usual, on new-year's-day; Mary and her brother were of course present: in common with all who were acquainted with Vernor's melancholy history, they were deeply impressed on beholding him surrounded by a

group of children, who pressed round him, as around a parent, to receive some token of his approbation and regard.

Vernor had of late been pained to perceive a spirit of intolerance springing up among the people of the village; the baleful contagion had extended even to the youngest and most ignorant. It began to display itself openly on the arrival of a Catholic family to reside in the village; against these individuals some unfounded and illiberal prejudices were entertained, which arose from theological ignorance and bigotry.

"Charles and William," said the pastor, addressing two lads, who formed part of the company, "on this day, devoted by us to reflection and friendly intercourse, do not your hearts accuse you of inhospitable, ungenerous behaviour towards the young people of that family who have come to reside amongst us? From impartial people, John Wallis receives the character of an honest man, and I know that his children are well brought up, and are

amiable in their deportment; why then do you neglect and shun them more than your other young neighbours?"

"Oh sir," replied Charles, fully assured that this answer would entirely justify him, "do you not know that John Wallis is a Papist?"

"What then?"

"Oh, I know nothing else against them, than that every body says they are Papists."

"And then," said William, "they do not go to church as we do, but set off early in the morning every Sunday in their market cart; father says they go to tell their beads; I don't know what that means, but they certainly are Papists."

"Lamentable and foolish prejudices!" said the pastor, turning to Mary and Algernon; "who would have believed that these children were in danger of imbibing such?"

The discovery of their folly grieved him, and he desired their attention while he endeavoured to unfold to their understand-

ings the causes which produce differences in religious opinions. He gave them an idea of the principal subjects which cause a division in the Christian world; the different ideas which men conceive of their Creator, and the different ways in which they believe his favour is to be obtained; hence he deduced the folly and criminality of illiberality, which he represented to them in the strongest colours.

The children were already impressed with a sense of contrition for the error into which they had all of them, more or less, fallen, when Vernor, to follow up the good effect of his admonitions, by pleasing the imagination of his auditors with a tale, took up a volume of the "Evenings at Home," and giving the book to Fanny, requested her to read—

"SUNDAY MORNING,

OR

DIFFERENCE AND AGREEMENT.

"It was Sunday morning; all the bells were ringing for church, and the streets

were filled with people moving in all directions; here numbers of well-dressed persons, and a long train of charity-children, were thronging in at the wide doors of a large, handsome church. There, a smaller number, almost equally gay in dress, were entering an elegant meeting-house. Up one alley, a Roman Catholic congregation was turning into their retired chapel, every one crossing himself with a finger dipped in holy water as he went in. The opposite side of the street was covered with a train of Quakers, distinguished by their plain and neat attire, and sedate aspect, who walked without ceremony into a room as plain as themselves, and took their seats, the men on one side, and the women on the other, in silence. A spacious building was filled with an overflowing crowd of Methodists, most of them meanly habited, but decent and serious in demeanour; while a small society of Baptists in the neighbourhood quietly occupied their humble place of assembly.

Presently the different services began; the churches resounded with the solemn organ, and with the indistinct murmurs of a large body of people following the minister in responsive prayers.

"From the meetings were heard the slow psalm, and the single voice of the leader of their devotions. The Roman Catholic chapel was enlivened by strains of music, the tinkling of a small bell, and a perpetual change of service and ceremonial. A profound silence and unvarying look and posture announced the self-recollection and mental devotion of the Quakers.

"Mr. Ambrose led his son Edwin round all these different assemblies as a spectator. Edwin viewed every thing with great attention, and was often impatient to inquire of his father the meaning of what he saw; but Mr. Ambrose would not suffer him to disturb any of the congregations even by a whisper.

"When they had gone through the whole, Edwin found a great number of questions to put to his father, who ex-

plained every thing to him in the best manner he could. At length says Edwin, 'But why cannot all these people agree to go to the same place, and worship God the same way?'

'And why should they agree?' replied his father; 'do you not see that people differ in a hundred other things? Do they all dress alike, and eat and drink alike, and keep the same hours, and use the same diversions?'

'Ay, but those are things in which they have a right to do as they please.'

'And they have a right too to worship God as they please; it is their own business, and concerns none but themselves.'

'But has not God ordered particular ways of worshipping him?'

'He has directed the mind and spirit with which he is to be worshipped, but not the form and manner; that is, left for every one to choose according as it suits his temper and opinions. All these people like their own way best, and why should they leave it for the choice of another? religion

is one of the things in which *mankind were made to differ.*'

"The several congregations now began to be dismissed, and the street was again overspread with persons of all the different sects, going promiscuously to their respective homes.

"It chanced that a poor man fell down in the street in a fit of apoplexy, and lay for dead; his wife and children stood round him, crying and lamenting in the bitterest distress. The beholders immediately flocked round, and, with looks and expressions of the warmest compassion, gave their help. A Churchman raised the man from the ground by lifting him under the arms, while a Dissenter held his head, and wiped his face with his handkerchief; a Roman Catholic lady took out her smelling-bottle, and assiduously applied it to his nose; a Methodist ran for a doctor; a Quaker supported and comforted the woman; and a Baptist took care of the children.

"Edwin and his father were among the spectators—'Here,' said Mr. Ambrose,

'is a thing in which *mankind were made to agree.*"

The narrative had the desired effect upon all the auditors; Charles and William especially declared they would repeat all that they had heard when they returned home, and begged that the pastor would witness their resolution never again to indulge such senseless prejudices.

The vigilance of the pastor, aroused by this little incident, was now exerted to prevent the increase of the unhappy error; he was eventually successful, with a great proportion of his neighbours, in diffusing principles of justice and candour towards those who dissented from their mode of worship.

Fanny inquired very eagerly, when she was left alone with her instructress, whether she had a chance of beholding, like the youth in the tale she had read, the worship of such various sects? Being told that the city of S—— contained more than one society of each sect, in addition to numerous churches of the established

religion, and one or two occupied by French or Dutch Protestants, she became very desirous of walking over to S——, that she might take a view of the whole.

The desire was not wholly disregarded by Mary, who, however, advised her to repress her curiosity till she became more informed on the subject.

CHAPTER VI.

"Oh Vanity! for what hast thou not to answer!"

The young people had also been slightly infected during the past summer by the example of a gay, flaunting lass, who had returned from S——, after serving a long apprenticeship to a milliner in that city. From admiring, some of them proceeded to imitating Sarah Barlow, who was the daughter of the worthy woman to whom Mary had paid so much attention during

her illness. However admired and imitated by her thoughtless companions, Sarah's dress and deportment gave serious and anxious concern to her mother, and those who were really attached to her.

Finding no encouragement to settle at Uston, she returned to S—— to live as an assistant with her former mistress. The effects of her visit were not so speedily removed; the pastor observed with regret the slight foundation upon which a sense of propriety had been established in the minds of some whom he had believed to be superior to all kinds of foppery. The dignified expression of his disapprobation on the occasion checked the further spread of the evil, and an event was at hand, which, beyond the power of exhortation, however forcible, carried home conviction, and struck with horror the most giddy and inconstant.

A few months after Sarah's return to S——, when Mary and Fanny called, according to their frequent custom after a morning walk, to inquire concerning Mrs.

Barlow's health, they were alarmed, on entering the cottage, to find Maria in tears, endeavouring to revive her mother, who had fallen back senseless in a fainting fit. A letter lay upon the table, to which Maria pointed, to signify that the intelligence it contained had occasioned their distress.

After Mrs. Barlow had regained her consciousness, she attempted to relate to Mary the afflicting tale; but perceiving that the attempt increased her agony, the latter drew Maria aside, and requested from her an explanation of the scene she had witnessed.

"Ah, Sarah, Sarah!" exclaimed Maria; and with tears and sobs related, "that since her return, Sarah had given way to her vain and frivolous propensities, until she had become negligent in the service of her employer, and had even ventured to contract debts for the supply of her extravagant wants; that being led on from one imprudence to another, she had dared at length, in the vain hope of preventing an exposure of her dishonesty in contract-

ing debts, without a prospect of discharging them, to purloin a sum of money from the desk of a gentleman who occupied apartments in her mistress's house; in short, that this once gay and dashing lass was now a prisoner in the city jail of S——."

Mary immediately acquainted the pastor with the sorrowful tale she had heard; he repaired without delay to solace and befriend the unhappy mother. After much deliberation it was agreed, that since delay might be fatal, he should forthwith accompany Mrs. Barlow to S——, and there take such measures as further information on the affair might render most advisable. Accordingly a chaise was ordered, in a few hours they departed, and Maria was committed to the protection of Mary.

The particulars of this unhappy occurrence soon after reached Uston; it appeared that Mrs. Browne, Sarah's employer, had occasionally been requested to let off part of her house, in order to accommodate cus-

tomers from the country who wanted a temporary habitation in the city; and that, at the time of Sarah's return, the apartments were occupied by Mr. L. and his daughter, whom business of importance had drawn to S——. Sarah was frequently sent up with messages or millinery goods from the shop to Miss L.; on these occasions she had more than once seen Mr. L. before he went out to business, take notes or cash from a writing-desk, which he carefully locked.

After Sarah's extravagance had involved her in difficulties, the thought of this desk, and its probable contents, frequently occurred to her mind. At first the idea was checked with horror; but being gradually indulged with less reluctance, she finished with devising means for the accomplishment of her dishonest purpose.

Growing remiss in her duty, she lost the good opinion of her mistress, and was warned that negligence would ensure a speedy dismissal. On promising to renew her former industry and diligence, Sarah

was, however, suffered to retain her station; Mrs. Browne believing that, with all her faults, she was a girl to be trusted in every instance where honesty was concerned. Sarah much desired to retain her employment, which in all respects suited her taste, and dreaded lest the exposure of her imprudence in contracting debts should again endanger it; therefore, to escape the disclosure of an act of indiscretion, she blindly resolved upon a deed, which, if detected, must ruin her character for ever.

Mr. L. returning home late one Saturday evening, retired to rest without settling his accounts, and the next morning set off early with his daughter for a visit of two or three days to a friend in the country. From an accidental circumstance, Sarah learned these particulars, and being left alone in the house on the following Sunday afternoon, while Mrs. Browne's family were at church, or otherwise dispersed, the opportunity tempted her to venture the rash act of opening Mr. L.'s

desk, and purloining thence a sum sufficient to extricate her from embarrassment. According to her subsequent confession before a magistrate, she trusted for impunity to the circumstance of Mr. L. not having examined his pocket-book on his return on Saturday evening, and to the supposition that a man of his wealth would not think that a deficiency of thirty pounds required investigation.

She confessed that after resolving upon the robbery, she had paid great attention to this gentleman's customary practices, and discovered that he often placed the key of his desk in the closet of his sleeping-room. It happened that when the house was last repaired, Mrs. Browne had ordered a lock to be placed on the door of this closet, and another upon one in her own room. The carpenter forgetting that the doors were in different rooms, had provided only one key for the pair of locks, and on discovering his mistake, had been obliged to procure a second key. Sarah

remembered this trivial circumstance, and availed herself of it to accomplish her design.

Mrs. Browne never locked up her closets or drawers when Sarah was left in charge of the house; and to aggravate the guilt of the latter, she betrayed this confidence by taking advantage of her mistress's absence to gain possession of the key. Having obtained this, she eagerly opened Mr. L.'s closet, and too soon, unfortunately for her own good, discovered the key of his desk; she then proceeded to make use of it, and found his pocket-book with bank-notes of greater or less value placed between the leaves. Passing over "one hundred, fifty," &c. she fixed upon one marked "thirty," then hastily concealed it in her bosom, clasped the book, closed the desk, replaced its key, and returned that of Mrs. Browne's closet to its place.

A guilty conscience harassed Sarah for many days; but after Mr. L.'s return, not hearing any thing that could lead her to suspect that he had discovered the theft,

she ventured to change the note, presenting it, in Mrs. Browne's name, to a tradesman who was accustomed to accommodate her on such occasions. Unfortunately for Sarah, she forgot that the note would most probably be indorsed with Mrs. Browne's name; on leaving the shop with the change in her purse, this idea first occurred to her, but it was then too late to recal the deed—that would excite suspicion; she therefore proceeded to pay off her debts, and endeavoured to appear with her usual spirits.

From Mr. L.'s statement it appeared, that the day before the theft was committed, he had received money in payment from three of his tenants; it was market-day, and the farmers met their landlord at an inn, where they dined after the business was concluded. Mr. L. staid in their company beyond the time that it was possible to pay the money in at any of the city banks, which accounted for so many notes of high value being found in his pocket-book.

On settling his accounts, Mr. L. found a deficiency of thirty pounds; and contrary to Sarah's expectation, though a man of large fortune, eagerly applied himself to account for the money. For this purpose he wrote immediately to each of his tenants, requesting them to specify the value of the notes in which they paid their rent to him; all returned satisfactory answers; but one, more accurate than the others, inclosed the numbers of the notes which he paid in; these were found to correspond exactly with the remaining bills, save that *No. 5745, value thirty pounds, was missing.*

The affair now began to wear rather a dark appearance; without mentioning his suspicions to any individual, Mr. L. gave notice of the number of this lost note at each of the city banks. Before the end of the month the note was paid in at one of them by a tradesman of the city, who constantly paid his cash in at that house every Saturday. This tradesman, when questioned, said that he had received it

from Parkes, a baker; this latter was the man who had changed the note for Sarah. On examining the indorsements at the back of the note, Mr. L. was struck with surprise to find the name of "Browne, King-street," the name and residence of his hostess.

Parkes the baker was then called upon to state from whom he had received the bill; he replied, from a young person in the employment of his neighbour Browne, the milliner. He added, that he was in the habit of accommodating his customers in this manner, and had often changed bills for Mrs. Browne, which were brought by the same young lass; he then described her person, and declared himself ready to identify her, if required.

Mr. L. now took his resolution, and thanking Parkes for the offer of his testimony, replied that the affair would, he trusted, be arranged without applying to violent measures.

Returning to his apartments, Mr. L. called up Mrs. Browne, and related the

manner in which the note had been traced to her house, declaring his belief that one of her family had robbed him: he then requested that all the apprentices and servants might be called up. When assembled, he stated his suspicions, and offered a full pardon to the delinquent, provided that immediate confession was made; otherwise he declared his determination to proceed against the offender to the full extent of the law. All but the delinquent protested their innocence with the coolness of insulted honesty; she likewise denied any knowledge of the fact, but through terror and desperation.

" Well then," said Mr. L. " I must pursue another method to develop this mysterious affair; yet once again I call upon all present to remember my declaration; hereafter all supplication will be useless"

He paused—no reply was made; then advancing towards the door, added in a decided tone—" I particularly request that

you will retain your places until my return."

In a short time Mr. L. returned, accompanied by Parkes; the latter glanced his eye round the room, and then exclaimed —"This is the girl," as he laid his hand on Sarah's shoulder, who, as if petrified by the touch, fell senseless at his feet.

When Sarah recovered, she found Mrs. Browne, with two strangers, standing beside her. Falling upon her knees, she besought the former to pardon her base desertion of duty in betraying the trust reposed in her; then, frantic with terror, entreated Mrs. Browne to intercede for her with Mr. L. promising to confess her guilt to him without disguise. Overcome by her entreaties, Mrs. Browne consented to convey the message, though aware that it would be of no avail.

Mr. L. severely replied, that the time for pardon was past, and that her confession must now be made before a magistrate.

The strangers, who had constantly re-

mained in the room, advanced towards Sarah, when Mr. L.'s answer had been reported, and proceeded to confine her hands. Meeting with resistance, they declared themselves to be officers of justice; they then led her before the mayor of S——.

Arrived in the justice-room, she found Mr. L. already stationed. Again she implored his pity, if not for herself, yet at least for an aged parent and a sister, whose spotless character might be injured by the publicity of her punishment. She was silenced by the cutting reply, that *she* should have remembered her mother and sister.

Mr. L. then made his statement, naming three persons to corroborate his assertions; the tenant who had paid the note—Parkes, who had received it from Sarah—and the banker's clerk who had stopped its circulation. From the testimony of the two last witnesses, the guilt of the prisoner was already evident; she was therefore ordered

to be brought up the following day for further examination, when the prosecutor engaged to produce his third witness.

After another examination the prisoner was fully committed for trial at the approaching assizes. Though humanely cautioned not to criminate herself, she would not be satisfied without making a full confession of her guilt before she finally left the justice-room; thence she was taken to the city jail in a state bordering on phrenzy; in this pitiable condition Mrs. Barlow and the pastor found her on their arrival at S——.

CHAPTER VII.

IN anxious suspense the young people at the parsonage waited for the intelligence which Vernor, on departing, had promised to communicate. On the third day a let-

ter arrived, authenticating the current reports.

The pastor related, that at the suggestion of his solicitor, he had selected Mr. D. an able pleader, who was fortunately retained for other trials on that circuit, to advocate the desperate cause. He stated it to be the opinion of Mr. D. that since the prisoner's guilt could not be disproved, it would be expedient to confine his efforts to the endeavour to obtain a mitigation of the rigorous sentence of the law.

With respect to Mrs. Barlow, who had been drawn from the calm of a rural life, and plunged into the horrors of a scene like the present, the pastor declared that she especially needed the hand of a steady friend to guide her through the labyrinth of troubles in which she had been entangled by her luckless child.

As to the unhappy Sarah, he avowed his own opinion that no exertions could avail to save her in this world, whose harsh and sanguinary laws, he conceived, were about to preclude the possibility of a return to

rectitude. With this persuasion, he felt himself impelled by every feeling of humanity to endeavour to prepare and fortify her mind against the approaching event. Since the assizes were to commence nine days after the date of this letter, he signified his intention of remaining at S—— until the case was decided; and in conclusion, requested Mary to hold herself in readiness to accompany Maria Barlow, whose presence would soon be desirable, perhaps needful, to take a last farewell of her sister.

The following Sabbath the house of prayer remained closed; a similar circumstance had taken place only twice since Vernor had been pastor. This singularity, together with the knowledge of the errand on which their revered pastor was absent, produced a considerable sensation throughout the village; never was fashionable levee more frequented than the hall of Uston parsonage on this day, numbers thronging to inquire for their common friend, or to learn the fate of Sarah Barlow.

The trial was now at hand. In a few days Mary received a summons to join the pastor; she departed with Maria, giving Fanny permission to visit S—— with some young people, who were earnestly desirous of witnessing the proceedings of the court of justice. Some of these having shown great inclination to adopt the manners of the unhappy girl, Mary encouraged their wish to repair to the striking scene of her trial, conceiving that it would prove a permanent corrective of such dangerous propensities.

Vernor's predictions were literally accomplished; the trembling victim of folly received the condemnation of death; a strong recommendation to mercy, however, accompanied the sentence. Struck with horror, the companions of the once-guileless Sarah returned with precipitation to their homes, fervently imploring deliverance from temptation; nor could any distance of time ever afterwards efface the remembrance of this scene from their minds.

Yet Sarah was now, perhaps, in a state less pitiable than her relatives. On hearing the verdict " guilty," a cold shivering seized her, and she was subsequently led from the bar in a state of stupefaction. A more noisome apartment, the receptacle of the condemned, then received her; in this wretched cell she was destined to await the final award of the distributors of punishment and death.

The interest which Vernor possessed among the great in station was inconsiderable, yet that he exerted to the utmost. All intercession however was unavailing, since it was the *pleasure* of the first magistrate to confirm the sentence. Notwithstanding, deliverance was approaching; in mercy the unfortunate girl was removed from the world a few hours after the final determination of her fate was signified. Sarah died of a broken heart, through remorse for her guilt, and the indescribable anguish in which that guilt had plunged her excellent mother. The grief of the mother had indeed been indescribable ever

since the first intimation of this affair; but now she became calm and resigned, humbly trusting to the Father of Mercies the fate of her child.

The pastor and Mary now became anxious to return home; they soon after departed, and were followed, at no great distance of time, by Mrs. Barlow and Maria, to whom the inhabitants of the village united to show every possible mark of their unaltered respect and goodwill.

Before the effervescence occasioned by the late catastrophe had subsided, Vernon desired to render the misfortune of one family the means of essential benefit to many, by taking advantage of the circumstance to introduce a new species of information to the minds of his young pupils. Recent circumstances had impressed him with the idea, that in some characters the love of virtue requires to be united with the fear of punishment; and that to render such fear beneficial, it is desirable to connect with it ideas, clear and strong,

of the legal consequences attendant on each species of misdemeanour, and a general knowledge of the laws of the individual's country.

The pupils, though ever equal in the presence of their pastor, were nevertheless of different worldly consideration; but each, in his estimation, whether the child of a farmer, a tradesman, a mechanic, or a labourer, had the same near interest in the subject; each in his station would become amenable to the laws, and each would, if injured or oppressed, appeal to the same laws for protection. He believed, that by neglecting to communicate this information with his best ability, he should but imperfectly perform his duty to the children, for whose goodness he considered himself in some measure accountable. Therefore he proceeded to prepare for them a course of lectures, adapted to their capacity, which should unfold the nature and origin of law in general, and then proceed to the peculiar institutions of their own country.

Here the pastor would gladly have availed himself of Algernon's assistance; so high an opinion did he entertain of his talents, and knowledge of the law, that he would have been satisfied to entrust the design entirely to his execution; but for important reasons, the proposal appeared unadvisable.

It was by his misconduct, while engaged in the study of the law, that Algernon had bitterly disappointed the hopes of his friends, and prepared for himself a fruitful source of regret for the remainder of his days. From a child, the highest opinion had been formed of his talents; and while the prosperity of his parents continued, the peculiar facility with which he acquired each branch of instruction appeared to justify this estimate.

When adversity visited them, the hopes of his parents were fixed upon him. He chose the profession of the law. To place him in a situation the most eligible that could be selected for acquiring a know-

ledge of that profession, his family employed a considerable part of their remaining property. For some years he studied with his usual application, till an unaccountable prepossession interrupting his progress, he gradually became unsettled and dissatisfied, then finished by absconding from the gentleman to whom he was articled.

The effects of this imprudent step had long ceased to afflict any but himself, yet the recollection of the misery it once occasioned continued to disturb his peace, to a degree that rendered his sister and the pastor cautious of even distantly alluding to the subject, which, by agitating his mind, might overthrow the hopes they had reason to form of his gradual restoration, from the improvement which had taken place in his state of mind since arriving at Uston. But since his arrival at Uston, Algernon had learned the necessity of governing this unseasonable sorrow—unseasonable, since it produced no beneficial effects. The

example of the pastor roused him from the lethargic state into which he had fallen, to attempt to copy his virtues.

He saw the pastor beloved and revered by all who approached him, held in such high estimation by his neighbours, that even such of them as were able to procure instruction for their children, by remunerating competent preceptors, still could not forbear sending them occasionally to share a portion of his care. Algernon well knew this, and considered that by self-command equal to that which Vernor exercised, he too might attain this engaging character.

Who could have more painful associations connected with the children who so repeatedly surrounded him than Vernor, yet who was ever a more active and benevolent friend of youth? who could have been more cruelly disappointed in the failure of his expectations of continued domestic happiness, yet who could more earnestly and effectually than himself promote the happiness of surrounding families?

While impressed by these considerations, an accidental circumstance disclosed to Algernon the intentions of the pastor; the former, without delay, put his resolution to the proof, by requesting permission to share his labours in this new department. The pastor assented with great satisfaction, and proceeded to unfold his plan, and the motives which had prompted him to the undertaking. The subject was pursued with alacrity by the instructors, and the young people attended with increasing interest.

The penal laws of England were at length detailed to them, and their indignation and horror could not be repressed on learning some of their unequal decrees. They were informed that in the metropolis alone, numbers were, several times in the year, deprived of existence, for offences of no deeper malignity than stealing wearing appeal, or trifling articles of furniture, the value of which exceeded forty shillings. That atrocious murder, 'and such comparatively venial crimes, should receive

the same awful punishment, excited their highest wonder; all eagerly inquired if this were the case *in every other country as well as in England?*

" In Scotland," replied Algernon, " the punishment of death is much less frequent than in England; and in the republic of Geneva, it is related by a traveller of our own nation, that the execution of a criminal is of so rare occurrence, that the singularity and horror of the circumstance cause a considerable sensation through all ranks of the Genevese. I will mention another honourable exception, which is the criminal code of Pennsylvania, a province of North America; its name is derived from that of the original proprietor and legislator of the colony, William Penn, and from the natural appearance of the country, when first the settlement was made, being then covered with majestic woods. I will read you an extract from the delightful picture of his valuable institutions which the biographer of Penn has drawn.

' After the revolution in British Ame-

rica and its consequent independence, an opportunity was given to each state to make its own laws. The Pennsylvanians were now enabled to do justice to all the legislative propositions of their founder, by allowing them their full scope. Bearing his ideas in their minds, they at length produced a system of criminal jurisprudence, which stands unparalleled, as to excellence, in the history of the world; by this system, as it obtains at the present day, it appears that wilful and premeditated murder is the only capital offence in Pennsylvania.

" All other crimes are punished by fine, imprisonment, and labour; all convicted criminals are expected to maintain themselves out of their own labour, as well as to defray the expences of their commitment, prosecution, and trial. Accordingly, an account is regularly kept against them; and if, when the time of their imprisonment is expired, any surplus money is due to them on account of their work, it is given to them on their discharge.

'The price of prison labour, in its various departments, is settled by the inspector of the jail, and those who employ the criminals. No corporal punishment is allowed in the prison, nor can any criminal be put in irons; it being the object not to degrade him, but to induce him to be constantly looking up to the restoration of his dignity as a man, and to the recovery of his moral character. No intercourse is allowed between the untried and the convicted prisoners; all unnecessary conversation is forbidden. Profane swearing is never overlooked; a strict watch is kept that no spirituous liquors be introduced. Care is taken that all the prisoners have the benefit of religious instruction; the prison is accordingly open at stated times to the pastors of the different religious denominations of the place. A hope is held out to the prisoners that the time of their confinement may be shortened by their good behaviour; to realize this, the inspectors have a power of interceding for their enlargement, and the executive go-

vernment of granting it, if they think it proper.

'If they are refractory, they are put into solitary confinement, and deprived of the opportunity of working; during all this time the expences of their maintenance are going on, so that they have an interest in returning to their obedience, and the sooner the better; for the sooner they get into employment again, the sooner they are enabled to liquidate the debt which, since the suspension of their labour, has been accruing, on account of their board and washing, to the jail.

'These are the present regulations; the consequence of which is, that they who visit the criminals in the jail of Philadelphia, seeing no chains or fetters, but industry going on unfettered in various departments, have no other idea of it than of a free workshop, or of a large and general manufactory, where people have consented to work together, or to follow in the same place their respective trades.

'In consequence of these regulations,

great advantages have arisen both to the criminals and to the state; the state, it is said, has experienced a diminution of crimes, to the amount of one-half, since this change in the penal system, and the criminals have been restored, in a great proportion, from the jail to the community, as reformed persons; hence little or no stigma has been attached to them, after their discharge, for having been confined there.

'They, indeed, who have had permission to leave it before the time expressed in the sentence, have been considered as persons not unfit to be taken into families, or confidentially employed; it may be observed also, that some of the most orderly and industrious, and such as have worked at the most profitable trades, have had sums of money to take on leaving the prison, by which they have been enabled to maintain themselves till they have got into desirable and permanent employ.'

"Here then is a code of penal law built upon the Christian principle of the refor-

nation of the offender; to dwell longer upon its merits would be useless. Let it be only remembered, that this system *obtains nowhere but in Pennsylvania*, and that it is the *direct germ*, only trained up by other hands, of the *root that was planted in the constitution of that country by William Penn.*"

"Oh! what an excellent man *he* must have been!" said Charles when Algernon had finished reading.

"Yes," replied Algernon, warmly; "William Penn was undoubtedly one of the best and most illustrious of men."

"But, Charles," observed Mary, with archness, "William Penn went not to church, as we do, but belonged to a society whose form of worship, mode of speech—nay, whose very apparel, all differ from our customs."

"Oh Miss Trevor! do not remember such speeches against me; I am heartily ashamed of them."

"I am very glad to hear it; and to show you the necessity of liberality, if we

would acquire any portion of wisdom, I must add to my brother's information, ' that queen Anne of England, in a few years, abolished the merciful code which spared the life of the criminal on so many occasions, *as not consonant with the spirit of the English law;*' she restored it, however, shortly afterwards, probably at the request of William Penn. After his death it was again abolished, until after the revolution, in which America gained its freedom from the control of the mother country, the system was finally established in the purity we have just heard described."

CHAPTER VIII.

Let the maxim, " God hath made nothing in vain," be the key to the discoveries of the wonders of Nature.

St. Pierre.

A second time the misfortunes of the Barlows had interrupted Fanny in her

pursuits; yet while steadily bent on improvement, her goodness of heart checked every regret for the loss of the time thus engrossed. Mary, as usual, converted the passing events into lessons of virtue and liberal information.

As the best means of diverting the attention of Maria Barlow from sorrowful recollections, Mary had obtained for her some advantageous employment, which was doubly acceptable, as it afforded an opportunity of replacing the property that her mother had been obliged to part with, in order to defray the expences of the late disastrous affair.

Among other things, she procured some needlework, for which a good price was promised, on condition that it was speedily finished. On hearing of this, Fanny requested permission to assist her, observing that none of her usual occupations need be neglected, since the increasing length of the days would allow her to rise some hours earlier, and thus sufficient time would be found for every thing.

A ready assent was given to this proposal. Mary felt great satisfaction in seeing her thus willing to inconvenience herself, or sacrifice her own gratification, when the trifling aid in her power to bestow could be of avail in removing distress. No trifling self-denial was it which Fanny practised in foregoing her accustomed walks with Mary and the pastor, especially as the season had arrived in which she had anticipated the pleasure of commencing an acquaintance with botany; but resolved to finish the task she had undertaken, she steadily adhered to her engagement.

Anxiously desirous that Maria, by promptitude on this occasion, should obtain a constant succession of employment, Mrs. Barlow employed every leisure hour in assisting her; while she worked with the young people, she would often endeavour to chase away care, by talking of her long-lost benefactors, the parents of Mary Trevor, and the lamented wife of the pastor. To these two families, so tenderly united,

this excellent woman owed her advancement from a state of ignorance and extreme poverty to her present respectable condition.

In early life misfortune forced her to seek the shelter of the parish poor-house, whence she was taken into the family of Trevor; here, as a highly-valued domestic, she lived sufficient length of time to secure the good opinion, and even the gratitude and esteem, of her employers.

She left them to marry her fellow-servant, the gardener, whose character equalled her own in excellence. As a token of regard, Trevor presented them, on their marriage, with a small freehold estate, consisting of a cottage and ten acres of land.

While their liberal master continued in the village, their prosperity and happiness were unclouded; upon his sudden departure, Barlow was thrown out of an excellent situation, and his wife lost the advantage of frequent employment in the family; still Trevor's provident generosity continued to benefit

them essentially, and no loss was so deeply felt as that of the residence of their benefactors in the village.

At length the same direful distemper which had swept away the family of the pastor deprived Mrs. Barlow of her worthy husband. After that event, by the exercise of great prudence and industry, she had obtained support for herself and two little children, though left, on the death of her husband, in circumstances of embarrassment, occasioned by unforeseen disappointments.

The unhappy end of one daughter has been related; the young and innocent Maria alone remained to solace and assist her mother. The marks of esteem that Mrs. Barlow had received from her neighbours, on returning from S——, and especially the kind assistance of Fanny Welford, called forth the strongest feelings of gratitude—" Your kindness to my child," she would observe to Fanny, " requires a grateful return, yet we have nothing but our esteem and gratitude to offer."

"You have abundantly repaid me," was the reply of Fanny; "your assurances of regard have made me shed tears of joy, and you have suffered me to be useful to *you*, whom I esteem so highly."

Several days within the given time the work was completed and sent home, and thus the desired object was obtained, through the assiduity of Maria and the assistance of Fanny.

Now then she was free, and with a clear conscience could request Miss Trevor to initiate her into the study so long the object of her wishes; but again Fanny was obliged to delay the promised undertaking; her instructress was at that time more than usually occupied, and she saw, with regret, the harebell, the lily of the valley, and the countless beauties of the spring, fade away without venturing to mention the subject.

Meanwhile she was invited by her uncle and aunt to spend a day at the farm. Sordid as was the character of these relatives, still all regard could not be repressed

for a child whose amiable deportment had merited greater kindness than she had received under their roof. Fanny, little inclined to resentment, immediately complied with the request, since, as she observed, on bidding her friends adieu, she was only to be absent for one day.

Civil treatment, permission to range at liberty among the hay fields, and even to gather a large nosegay from the well-stocked garden belonging to the farmhouse, soon reconciled Fanny to her former hard taskmasters; she was yet unacquainted with the art of penetrating into motive, and therefore did not make the discovery that much of the attention now paid her was occasioned by the knowledge that strangers and superiors were warmly interested in her welfare.

Satisfied that even her cross aunt and surly uncle now behaved kindly, Fanny took leave of them early in the evening, and returned in high spirits to her happy home—“ Oh Miss Trevor!” she exclaim-

ed, on entering the parlour, "pray look at my flowers; I have brought home from my uncle's meadows and garden a sample of all the plants of which I knew not the name. I have seen them so often, and yet could not describe them well enough to ask you what they are called; now will you tell me?"

"Yes, if I know myself. Ah! here are many plants which I have not seen since I was your age, Fanny, and more with which I am wholly unacquainted; let us examine this rich harvest."

The beauty and novelty of Fanny's specimens so entirely occupied Mary, that she scarcely heard her numerous questions, while holding up each old acquaintance to learn its name. Her pleasures, however, were never long enjoyed without exciting the wish that others should be gratified also —"Fanny," said she, "would you like to be able to examine the wonderful construction of these lovely flowers, and thence derive the knowledge of their family and individual names? such infor-

mation would be an exquisite addition to your present fondness for flowers."

"Oh yes, the very thing I desire."

"Why then was I not made acquainted with your wish? June is already come, and I must warn you against delay. If it depends on me, I shall be prepared to give you an introductory lesson to-morrow."

Tears of delight glistening in the eyes of Fanny sufficiently proved the feelings which this offer excited.

As they were sitting at supper, the pastor observed, addressing himself to Fanny —"I have at last obtained for you a copy of that excellent little work which you have so often heard me regret having lost out of my pocket, as I walked in the forest last summer. What a fruitless search you and William had to find it among the bushes!"

"Yes, sir," replied Fanny, "that was a fine holiday for me."

"Here then is another copy of the Natural History of the Year, the study of which

will afford you high gratification. When you have eaten sufficiently, read aloud the account of the present month, June."

The next morning Mary repaired, as usual, to the garden before breakfast, to mark the progress of the flowers and vegetables. In a few minutes Fanny was at her elbow; she had been watching for her appearance from her own bedroom window, which overlooked the garden. She was saluted with the general questions, "How have you employed yourself this morning, Fanny? what have you been learning?"

"Nothing; I have only been reading."

"And do you not then learn by reading? Assuredly, if you can comprehend the author's meaning, which no doubt was the case, or would you otherwise have been induced to lay aside your usual employments? I suppose the pastor's gift was too strong a temptation to be resisted. For once, it is a matter of little moment; but consider the importance of habitual application;

one amusement unseasonably enjoyed will often derange the pursuits of a whole day. What months did you read, my dear?"

"March, April, May, and *June* a second time. How beautifully true some of the accounts are! I have often seen them verified when I lived at my uncle's."

"No doubt; and did your information extend further, the accuracy of many other descriptions would be equally admired; at present I also have a gift to offer. Receive this volume, my dear girl, as a memorial of the time when you entered upon the fascinating study it will assist you to pursue; it is entitled "Letters on the Elements of Botany." The first eight letters are translated from the French of Rousseau, a celebrated literary character of that nation; the remainder are a continuation added by an English professor of the science. For many reasons it is my wish that botany should be the pursuit of your leisure hours only; therefore, since you spend many hours each day remote from observation, I trust to your honour to

confine the perusal of this volume to those portions of time which you can conscientiously spare. Do not think this restriction harsh; the time may not be very distant when you will *feel* its reasonableness. Regularity and order must direct our pursuits, especially when, like yourself, we have so much to acquire. Remember your father; he destined you early to a high moral and intellectual rank; let not your views be less elevated, but seize the opportunities of improvement while your remaining friends are spared. I speak with no intention of reproving, but to convince you how dangerous would be a habit of trifling. When we have an arduous journey to perform within a given space of time, is it not presumptuous confidence in our own speed to lavish our time at the outset by searching in the hedgerows for flowers? Since Aikin has alluded to the natural tribes of plants, you shall take a view of them before we proceed to the artificial mode of classification, in order to follow up the first idea you formed on the subject. Yet, first of

all, it is necessary to be able to discriminate between the several parts of a flower, and to learn a botanical nomenclature."

"Oh Miss Trevor!" exclaimed Fanny, "what are you doing? why you have pulled up a purple stock by the root!"

"A trifling offence," replied Mary; "will you not then spare *one* fragrant favourite? Take it in your hand and examine it, as I read an extract from Rousseau."

"A perfect plant is composed of a root, of a stem with its branches, of leaves, flower, and fruit (for in botany, by fruit, in herbs as well as in trees, we understand the whole fabric of the seed.) There is a principal part which requires an examination more at large—the fructification, that is, the flower and the fruit: let us begin with the flower, which comes first. In this part Nature has inclosed the summary of her work; by this she perpetuates it, and this also is commonly the most brilliant of all parts of the vegetable, and always least liable to variations."

"Am I to understand that these pods are the fruit, ma'am?" asked Fanny.

"No, they contain the fruit, and are called seed-vessels; sometimes, however, the name is so applied. Let us proceed to analyse the flower; break off a blossom. First, you perceive that the lower part of the flower is enveloped in a case consisting of four slender leaves, or leaflets, of a purplish green hue; this is termed the calyx, or sometimes the empalement. The bottom of the calyx is termed the receptacle; it is an essential part of the fructification in some tribes. Gently tear off the leaflets of the calyx; what do you find beneath?"

"Four other leaves of a lovely purple colour."

"In other words, the *corolla*. The four parts which compose it are termed *petals*; remove the petals of the corolla in the same manner as you did the leaflets of the calyx; did they conceal any thing?"

"Oh yes, several slender fibres with long tips."

"These are the stamens, the slender threads of which are termed filaments; the tips which crown their summits are called anthers, or more elegantly, *antheræ*."

On removing the stamens only one downy point remained.

"Here is the *pistil*," said Mary; "its parts in this specimen are not very visible to an unpractised eye, but it has *three* divisions; the *germ*, to which is attached the *style*, while the latter is crowned by the *stigma*. As the corolla of a flower fades and dies, the size of the germ increases, which, considered as the cover of the seeds, takes the name of pericarp; with respect to this individual tribe, it is termed a silique or pod. The yellow dust found in the interior of the flower is called *pollen* or *farina*; this farina is contained within the anthers until it is ripe, when they burst and throw it out. The analysis of your stock is now completed; plant it again in the shade, if you like."

When Fanny had been exercised in the dissection of many different flowers, Mary

continued—" The corolla of a flower, when composed of an entire petal, is said to be *monopetalous;* such are the corollas of veronica: when, on the contrary, a corolla is composed of several petals, it is called *polypetalous.* Another distinction is made between those flowers which are placed above the germ, and those which contain it within them. The first, like the rose and the fuschsia, are said to have superior corollas, while those of veronica, &c. are inferior, because they are below the germ, inclosing it within them, while the corolla of the rose is seated upon and crowns the germ. Flowers are also divided into regular and irregular; regular flowers have all their parts springing uniformly from the centre of the flower, and terminating in the circumference of a circle. In an irregular flower the top can be distinguished from the bottom, and the right side from the left, which discrimination cannot be made in regular flowers, on account of their uniformity. The calyx too, when entire, is said to be *monophyllous;* the term signifies

consisting of one leaf. The leaves of a plant also afford numerous distinctions, by which to ascertain its individual name. The leaves of the violet, you will soon learn, are heart-shaped; those of arrow-head are spear-shaped; the leaves of your stock are lance-shaped, and the plants around us offer examples of a great variety of forms. Now let us leave off for the present; it is breakfast-time."

CHAPTER IX.

"WHAT have you been conversing upon so seriously with my brother?" asked Mary, as her pupil came into the room, after a walk with the pastor and Algernon.

"Oh! then I suppose you saw us as we came over the green. Why, ma'am, I was asked how far I had proceeded in botany;

and as an answer, I repeated great part of my first lesson."

"And did Algernon say that you deserved a second?"

"Not exactly; he only observed—'Go on as well as you have begun."

"Yet, unfortunately," replied Mary, "your progress must be extremely tardy if you depend on me for instruction. The little time which I can spare from the daily routine of occupations must be employed in your instruction in English grammar, to which it becomes highly necessary to attend. Therefore I will recommend another method; you shall give me the satisfaction of seeing that you can instruct yourself, should you unhappily lose your preceptors—a contingency against which those who are most fortunately circumstanced should be early taught to provide.

"It has been observed, 'that in explation and repetition consists the whole art of teaching.' Bear this definition in mind,

for I may venture to assert that the success of tuition depends upon ingenuity in the application of these principles. Therefore, in studying by yourself, make it your first care to obtain a clear explanation of every difficulty which interrupts your progress; and to effect this, press every species of information into your service; decline no search which promises to afford a solution of the difficulty, for the want of a preceptor's explanation must then be supplied by your own industry. Repetition is an easier process, to which experience will teach how frequently it is needful to have recourse. Endeavour then to obtain the invaluable power of instructing yourself; how precious, how honourable is learning thus obtained!

"The study of botany is an advantageous field in which to commence your undertaking, requiring more attention than memory, and the sequel of every investigation being a reference to some visible object. Take the letters of Rousseau for your guide; you will derive a twofold ad-

vantage from their perusal; you will find your attention fixed by the beautiful, yet familiar style in which the information is conveyed, and find a lasting benefit in acquiring a habit of accurate observation, which is uniformly inculcated. More fortunate than the lady to whom they were addressed, you will have no occasion to send to a herbalist for common flowers which abound in every hedge; but, on the other hand, let not your familiarity with the objects he describes induce a reliance upon recollection. Read with an example in your hand. By the time you have studied the six natural tribes, I hope to find leisure to examine into your proceedings."

While inquiring into the accuracy of Fanny's information on the subject of English grammar, Mary found ample occasion to admire the judgment with which Vernor had selected the information suited to the mind and probable circumstances of his pupil. Those of the young people who remained for any length of time under his care, were furnished with sufficient

knowledge of their own language to render them correct and easy in the expression their ideas, whether in speaking or writing. The value of a clear, open address to young persons, destined to make their own way through life, and the great importance of writing perspicuously, were forcibly impressed upon their minds. No opportunity was given for vanity or conceit to spring up on account of their superiority in this respect to numbers, on other subjects, probably better informed than themselves. Instruction of every kind which tended to promote their usefulness and respectability, he led them to consider as a blessing, and as a talent which required to be converted to a dignified use.

Hence arose the general correctness of Fanny Welford's expressions. Nevertheless she often used inaccurate and provincial modes of speech, and for a while Mary was satisfied with correcting these by a passing observation; but as the time advanced, she began to wish that her pu-

pil possessed more enlarged views of the subject.

In the elementary parts of grammar, and in writing the exercises connected with her daily lessons, some considerable time was employed; and although, assisted by her previous knowledge, Fanny passed through the usual routine with credit, yet twice did she retrace her steps before she was allowed to proceed to the higher parts of the subject.

One afternoon, Fanny, being left alone with the pastor for a few hours, while Algernon and his sister were absent, complained heavily of the excessive heat of the weather.—"I never felt it so hot before," said she; "I must lay aside my work; yet had I been at my uncle's, I must have gone on with what I was about."

"But since you are *here*," observed the pastor, "rest awhile; when the air cools, you will return to it with redoubled diligence. I cannot be of your opinion, how-

ever, as to the extreme degree of heat we at this moment feel. I have known it become much more intense."

"What, in England, sir?"

"Yes, I have seen the thermometer rise many degrees above the point to which it has ascended this day."

"How should I bear that?"

"Patiently. Never increase the degree of animal heat by encouraging mental irritation. Suppose you were obliged to reside in India or Egypt—it is the fate, nay, even the choice, of many Europeans."

"It is much hotter in those countries then, sir?"

"We can form but an inadequate conception of the heat of the air, especially when certain winds are prevalent. But come with me into the study; I will find you some agreeable employment, and you will cease to lament the trifling inconvenience which disturbs you.—Read this account of the *kamsin*, or hot wind of the desert," said the pastor, opening Volney's Travels in Egypt.

"The southerly winds are generally known in Egypt by the name of *winds of fifty (days),* in Arabic *kamsin;* not that they last fifty days intermittingly, but because they are frequent in the fifty days preceding and following the equinox. Travellers mention them under the denomination of *poisonous* winds, or more correctly, *hot winds of the desert.* Such in fact is their quality; and their heat is at times so excessive, that it is difficult to form any idea of its violence without having felt it; but it may be compared to the heat of a large oven at the moment of drawing out the bread. When these winds blow, the atmosphere assumes an alarming appearance. The sky, at other times so clear in this climate, becomes dark and heavy; the sun loses his splendour and assumes a violet colour. The air, though not cloudy, is grey and thick, and is filled with a subtle dust, which penetrates every where. This wind, always light and rapid, is not at first very hot, but it increases in heat in proportion as it continues.

"All animated bodies soon perceive it by the change it produces. The lungs, which a too-rarefied air no longer expands, are contracted and painful. Breathing is short and difficult, the skin parched and dry, and the body consumed by an internal heat. In vain is recourse had to large draughts of water; nothing can restore perspiration; nor can coolness be found; all bodies in which it is usual to find it deceive the hand which touches them. Marble, iron, water, though the sun no longer appears, are hot. The streets are forsaken, and the dead silence of night universally reigns. The inhabitants of towns and villages shut themselves up in their houses, those of the desert in their tents, or in pits they dig in the earth, where they wait the issue of this destructive heat. It usually continues three days; but if beyond that time, it is insupportable.

"Woe to the traveller whom this wind surprises far from shelter; he must suffer

all its dreadful effects, which are sometimes mortal.

"The danger is most imminent when it blows in squalls; for then the rapidity of the wind increases the heat to such a degree as to occasion sudden death. This death is suffocation; the lungs being empty, are convulsed, the circulation disordered, and the whole mass of blood driven by the heart towards the head and breast; whence that hæmorrhage at the nose and mouth which follows death.

"This wind is especially fatal to persons of a plethoric habit, and those in whom fatigue has destroyed the tone of the muscles and the vessels. The corpse continues a long time warm, swells, turns blue, and is easily separated; all which are symptoms of that putrid fermentation which takes place in animal bodies when the humours become stagnant.

"These accidents may be avoided by stopping the nose and mouth with handkerchiefs; an efficacious method likewise

is that practised by the camels, which bury their noses in the sand, and keep them there till the squall is exhausted.

"Extreme aridity is another quality of this wind, which is such, that water sprinkled on the floor evaporates in a few minutes. By this extreme dryness it withers and strips all the plants, and by exhaling too suddenly the emanations from animal bodies, crisps the skin, shuts the pores, and produces that feverish heat which is the invariable effect of suppressed perspiration.

"These scorching winds are not confined to Egypt; they are likewise felt in Syria; more frequently, however, near the sea, and in the desert, than on the mountains."

"Oh wonderful!" exclaimed Fanny, "the very hottest air of England must appear cool in comparison with this account!"

"Did I ever mention the *sirocco*, a deleterious wind, common in Sicily, Italy, and the south of France?"

"Never, sir."

"The medium heat of the weather in those countries, during the continuance of the sirocco, is one hundred and twelve degrees. This wind is fatal to vegetables, and often destructive to the human species. It depresses the spirits in an unusual degree; it suspends the power of digestion, so that those who eat a heavy supper while it continues are often found dead in their beds in the morning. The sick at that afflicting period commonly sink under the pressure of their diseases; and it is customary in the morning, when this wind has blown a whole night, to inquire who is dead.

"Neither," continued Vernor, "are the storms which we experience in our own climate to be compared with those dreadful convulsions of nature which occasionally take place in warmer latitudes, where the fruits of a whole year's labour are often destroyed by a single *hurricane*.

"These terrible phenomena happen generally in the rainy season, about the

month of August. They are always preceded by an unusual calm; the storm comes on suddenly, commonly accompanied with rain, thunder, and lightning, and sometimes with an earthquake. Whole towns are made a heap of ruins by one of these hurricanes; fields of sugar-canes are whirled through the air; the strongest trees are torn up by the roots, and tossed about like stubble; nor can any building be constructed strong enough to afford a shelter from the beating of the storm, and the deluge of wet with which it is accompanied. The damage which ensues is often incalculable; the West Indian planters are sometimes reduced to extreme distress, and even ruin, by these terrible calamities. You will find an interesting account of a dreadful hurricane which occasioned unusual consternation and destruction, some years since, in the island of Jamaica, in Beckford's History of that island. At some future time you shall have the work from the library at S——."

"Thank you, my dear sir. Ah! my thanks are but an unworthy return for the numberless blessings which you have conferred upon me; but for you, Miss Trevor would never have known me."

"My solicitude for your welfare, my child, is amply compensated by seeing you happy, and daily increasing in those virtuous and dignified acquisitions to which your excellent preceptress is leading you by an easy and delightful path. No more——I hear voices. Ah! there is Algernon; his sister will soon follow. The heat you complained of, Fanny, does not appear to have checked their speed."

CHAPTER X.

"WHEN may I begin learning to write letters, Miss Trevor?" asked Fanny, while Mary was sealing up a note which the pastor had requested her to write for him.

" Would writing letters afford you much pleasure, then, do you suppose?"

" Oh yes! if you could teach me to write such as you used to send from Italy."

" My dear girl, may you never have occasion to exercise the little instruction in the art of writing letters which it is in my power to bestow under circumstances similar to those which occasioned me to send such letters from Italy! But what do you know about them? I am surprised at the expression of your wishes."

" But not offended, I trust."

" No, my dear child."

" I wished to write such letters," continued Fanny, " because I chanced to be here twice when the pastor received a letter from you—oh, could you have seen his countenance while he was reading!"

" I should have beheld his emotion on receiving tidings of the sorrowful exiles—but you express a wish to begin writing letters," said Mary, anxious to avoid any further reference to her residence in Italy;

"since you have no intercourse with friends at a distance, you must, for the present, address your letters to me, and make your progress in learning the leading theme of your epistles. I have not yet heard how you proceed with botany; let me soon receive a detailed account of your proceedings."

"But, my dear Miss Trevor, I wish to receive letters as much as to write them—will you sometimes answer me?"

"Willingly."

"Oh, then I shall be glad indeed to begin!"

"And I too am well satisfied to give an opportunity of putting your knowledge of grammar in practice; write *freely*, and with as much clearness as possible; you are certain of receiving no other kind of criticism from me than that which is requisite for your benefit and improvement."

Charmed with the project, Fanny had no sooner received the materials for writing, which her instructress had promised to provide, than she retired to her own

apartment to enter upon the favourite undertaking. Steady affection and gratitude, continually refreshed by new instances of kindness, completely banished the awkwardness and embarrassment felt by most juvenile letter-writers, even subsequently to their first attempt.

The first idea which presented itself was that of using this opportunity of expressing her gratitude for this ready compliance with her wishes. Following this idea, she listened only to the dictates of a heart overflowing with gratitude and affection, and expressed her feelings in simple, yet energetic terms.

At length it became necessary to quit this pleasing theme, in order to comply with Mary's request; but the account of her botanical pursuits was an undertaking of much difficulty, and it was with some reluctance that she offered her performance to Miss Trevor for perusal, after she had exerted her utmost skill and diligence in completing the narration.

She related the manner in which she had

waited for the blossoming of a white lily, in order to study the *liliaceous* tribe of plants, watching its progress from a green bud until it gradually became white, and at length expanded into a beautiful vase-shaped flower.

She then found that it was without a calyx; that the corolla consisted of six petals, and was therefore polypetalous; that the stamens were six in number; that the pistil consisted of three parts, a triangular germ, with a thread placed on it, called the style, while that style was topped with a sort of crown with three notches, called the stigma. She observed, that afterwards she had discovered that this number of six stamens (sometimes only three), of six petals, and that triangular form of the germ with its three cells, determine the liliaceous tribe. The *roots* also of this numerous family, she had learned, were bulbs of one kind or other, the *stems* simple and unbranched, and the *leaves* never cut or divided. The tulip, the narcissus, the lily of the valley, the leek, onion, and garlic,

were mentioned as plants of the liliaceous tribe.

Fanny then proceeded to relate her pleasure on discovering that the stock, the first flower she had ever examined, belonged to the *cruciform* tribe. With accuracy, tedious to all but her unwearied preceptress, she described the family-characters, the distinctions which marked the two natural orders, and related the circumstances which had led her to discover the *glands* of the cruciform flowers.

She next admired the beautiful account of the construction of the *papilionaceous* plants given by Rousseau, and, as before, detailed her own proceedings while examining the peas and other leguminous plants in the garden.

"The characters of the papilionaceous tribe are some of the most curious that botany affords.

* * * * * *

"First, you will find a monophyllous calyx, ending in five very distinct points, the two wider of which are at top, and the

three narrower at bottom. This calyx bends towards the lower part, as does also the peduncle or little stalk which supports it; this peduncle is very small and easily moveable, so that the flower readily avoids a current of air, and commonly turns its back to the wind and rain.

"Having examined the calyx, you may pull it off, so as to leave the rest of the flower entire, and then you will see plainly that the corolla is polypetalous.

"The first piece is a large petal covering the others, and occupying the upper part of the corolla; it is called the *standard*, or *banner*. We must make use neither of our eyes nor of common sense, if we do not perceive that this petal is designed to protect the other parts of the flower from the principal injuries of the weather. In taking off the standard you will observe that it is inserted on each side by a little process into the side-pieces, so that it cannot be driven out of its place by the wind.

"The standard being taken off, exposes to view those two side-pieces to which it

adhered; they are called the wings. In taking these off you will find them still more strongly inserted into the remaining part, so that they cannot be separated without some effort. These wings are scarcely less useful in protecting the sides of the flower than the standard in covering it. Taking off the wings, you discover the last piece of the corolla; this is that which covers and defends the centre of the flower, and wraps it up, especially underneath, as carefully as the three other petals envelop the upper part and the sides. This last piece, which, on account of its form, is called the boat or keel, is, as it were, the strong box into which nature has put her treasure, to keep it safe from the attacks of air and water. When you have well examined this petal, draw it gently downwards, for fear of injuring what it contains. I am certain you will be pleased with the mystery it reveals when the veil is removed.

"The young fruit involved in the boat or keel is constructed in this manner—a cy-

lindric membrane, terminated by ten distinct threads, surrounds the germ or embryo of the legume or pod, forming an interior armour around it.

If you examine more curiously, you will find these ten filaments are united into one at the base only in appearance; for in the upper part of this cylinder there is a piece or stamen which at first appears to adhere to the rest, but, as the flower fades and the fruit increases, separates, and leaves an opening at top, by which the fruit can extend itself, by opening and separating the cylinder gradually, which otherwise, by compressing and straitening it all round, would impede its growth. If the flower is not sufficiently advanced, you will not find this stamen detached from the cylinder; but put a fine pin or needle into two holes, which you will see near the receptacle at the base of that stamen, and you will soon perceive the stamen with its anther separate from the nine others, which will continue always to form one body, till at length they fade

and die, when the germ becomes a *legume*, and has no longer any occasion for them. These astonishing precautions have been heaped together by nature to bring the embryo of the pea to maturity, and, above all, to protect it, in the midst of the greatest rains, from that wet which is fatal to it, without enclosing it in a hard shell, which would have made it another kind of fruit. The Creator, attentive to the preservation of all beings, has taken care to protect the fructification of plants from attacks that may injure it; but he seems to have doubled his attention to those which serve for the nourishment of men and animals, as does the greater part of the leguminous or pulse tribe. The provision for the fructification of peas is, in different proportions, the same through this class. The flowers have the name of *papilionaceous*, from a fancied resemblance of them to the form of a butterfly *(papilio)*.

" The papilionaceous or leguminous plants form one of the most numerous and useful tribes; beans, peas, lucern, saint-

foin, clover, lupins, indigo, liquorice, kidney-beans, all belong to it. The character of this last is to have the boat spirally twisted, which at first sight might be taken for an accident. There are also some trees belonging to it, among which is the tree usually called acacia, and many beautiful flowering shrubs*."

Among the *ringent* or *labiate* tribe, Fanny soon detected her favourite aromatics, thyme, peppermint, and lavender. She appeared to have learned with facility the characters of the family—a monopetalous corolla cut into two lips, the upper called the *casque* or *helmet*, the lower the beard, together with four stamens, of which two are lower than the other two.

The *umbelliferous* plants, she said, at first perplexed her much. The following exact description of their manner of growth was for some time unintelligible, till accidentally discovering that *parsley* was a member of the family, she ran into the garden, and gathered a large branch of the

* Rousseau, Letter III.

flower. Her difficulties vanished on perusing it a second time with a plant before her. Figure to yourself a long stem, pretty straight, with leaves placed alternately upon it, generally cut fine, and embracing at the base branches which grow from their *axils**. From the upper part of this stem, as from a centre, grow several pedicles or rays, which, spreading circularly and regularly, like the ribs of an umbrella, crown the stem with a kind of basin, more or less open. Sometimes these rays leave a sort of void in the middle, and represent, in that case, more exactly the hollow of a basin; sometimes also this middle is furnished with other rays that are shorter, which, rising less obliquely, form, with the others, nearly the figure of a half-sphere, with the convex side uppermost.

Each of these rays is terminated, not by a flower, but by another set of smaller rays, crowning each of the former exactly as the first crown the stem. The rays of the little umbels are no farther subdivided,

* The angles formed by a leaf or branch with the stem.

but each of them is the pedicle to a little flower, of which we shall speak presently.

"If you can frame an idea of the figure which I have just described," adds Rousseau, "you will understand the disposition of the flowers in the tribe of *umbelliferous* or *umbellate* plants, *umbella* being the Latin word for umbrella. Though this regular disposition of the fructification be striking, and sufficiently constant in all the umbellate plants, it is not that, however, which constitutes the character of the tribe, &c. This then is the proper character of the umbellate tribe—a superior corolla of five petals, five stamens, two styles, upon a naked fruit, composed of two seeds growing together."

But the family which most excited Fanny's astonishment was that of the *compound flowers*—"I could scarcely have believed," said she, "that the daisy is composed of above two hundred little flowers, each having its corolla, stamens, pistil, germ, and seed." She failed not to notice

the distinction between an aggregate, or *capitate*, and a *compound* flower.

An aggregate flower, the clover, for instance, has each of its little component blossoms separately perfect; whereas one or two parts of the fructification of *compound* flowers are common to all the florets which compose them; these are generally the calyx and receptacle.

The magnifying glass which Algernon had presented to Fanny on a former occasion now greatly assisted the young student in her researches. Provided with this, and excited by the desire of information, she had overcome the difficulties and intricacies of this concluding branch of her undertaking.

Fanny received the commendation she deserved for her assiduity and patience on this occasion; she was also recommended to endeavour to obtain, by frequent practice, an easy and perspicuous style of narration.

CHAPTER XI.



One sultry morning Vernor was preparing to set off for a walk to a farmhouse where he had some business to settle. The distance was considerable, and the path which led to the farm extended across an open part of the neighbouring forest.

"Cannot I execute the commission for you, my dear sir?" said Mary; "you appear overcome by the heat already."

"Thank you, Mary; the affair is soon settled—pay this bill, deducting from it the sum which Mrs. Austin owes me; I can entirely confide in her, so that she always makes out her own account."

"Fanny, will you go with me?"

"No," said the pastor, with an arch smile, "Fanny will not be able to endure the heat."

"Oh yes! indeed I shall—pray let me go."

They walked without resting till they arrived at the farm, when Mary soon finished the affair entrusted to her; and after making those inquiries respecting the welfare of Mrs. Austin's family which Vernor had dictated, set off on her return homewards—"Here let us rest awhile," said she, and seated herself beneath a lofty tree in a shady part of the forest, while Fanny admired the luxurious coolness of the shade, and the beauty of the scene around them. "I have been looking over your letter a second time," said Mary, addressing her companion after a long silence; "I find much reason to be satisfied with you; yet why did you so frequently make use of the words of your author, instead of expressing the information you had gained in your own terms? I fear that it was not become sufficiently your own property, that you were thus at a loss for expressions—come, you will find plenty of examples near you; gather a plant of each family, and point out to me its cha-

racteristic distinctions while we remain in this charming spot."

"Now then I am quite satisfied," said she, when Fanny had ended her prolix descriptions; "you well deserve further information; other natural tribes you might also study with advantage—the *columniferous* flowers, for instance, have a marked and beautiful construction; but these and all your former acquaintances will come under consideration as members of the several classes of the Linnæan system, in studying which you will find your former knowledge eminently serviceable. At the present moment you behold a large variety of vegetable productions; from the moss which creeps over the bank upon which we rest, to the venerable oak whose branches shade us from the scorching sunbeams, all plants are comprised within one vast kingdom, which includes the vegetable productions of every part of the globe. The farmer and the gardener style those plants which occupy the space

where useful grain or wholesome vegetables would otherwise grow, troublesome and worthless weeds; but all plants are equal in the eye of the botanist: by the aid of classification he has marshalled these diversified productions into separate ranks, thus obtaining the power of identifying the most inconsiderable individual.

"The system which you are soon to study is founded upon principles extremely simple; these I leave to your future investigation; at present you will, I apprehend, derive more pleasure from a little account of the celebrated naturalist whose name is so frequently repeated to you.

"Linnæus flourished in the beginning of the eighteenth century; he was a native of Sweden. He endured much in order to pursue his favourite study; with only eight pounds to defray his travelling expences, he travelled from Sweden into Lapland on a journey of discovery, constrained by extreme poverty to mend his own shoes on the route.

" Subsequently his talents met with their due reward; he attained a state of competence, and became celebrated throughout Europe. The system of botany, which acute observation had enabled him to form, was at first received by the learned with coolness; some even, as the celebrated *Haller*, violently opposed it; however, he lived to see his own ideas become generally current. His character is free from the imputation of vice, though, perhaps, not so engaging as a life spent in the pursuit of natural history, and the studies connected with it, would lead one to imagine.

" He has divided the vegetable world into twenty-four *classes*; these classes into about one hundred and twenty *orders*; these orders contain about two thousand *families* or *genera*; and these families into about twenty thousand *species*, besides the innumerable *varieties* which the accidents of climate and cultivation have added to these species.

" The classes are distinguished from

each other in this system by the number, situation, adhesion, or reciprocal proportion of the stamens in each flower. The orders, in many of these classes, are distinguished by the number, or other circumstances, of the pistils. The families or genera are characterised by the analogy of all the parts of the flower or fructification. The species are distinguished by the foliage of the plant, and the varieties by any accidental circumstance of colour, taste, or odour. The seeds of these do not produce plants similar to the parent, as in our numerous fruit trees and garden flowers, which are propagated by grafts or layers.

"The first class, Monandria (one stamen), is a very small one; it contains very few families; the only one, I believe, with which you are acquainted is the Indian reed, which my brother raised with so much difficulty this season."

"Does he not call it Indian shot?" said Fanny.

"Yes, that is a very common name for

the plant, and arises from the appearance of the seeds, which are round and very hard. Other examples of the class I leave you to discover for yourself. The second class, Diandria (two stamens), is more numerous than the preceding. You will meet with some flowers which, I doubt not, you will immediately refer to the labiate tribe; but if you find them with only two stamens, rosemary and sage, for instance, you will discover, that notwithstanding their structure, they belong to the second class.

"To the third class, Triandria (three stamens) belongs the large family of grasses, the more valuable species of which we distinguish by the name of *corn.* The native country of wheat is not known; it is said to have been found growing wild in Sicily. Three hundred species of grass can be enumerated.

"The fourth class, Tetrandria, has four *equal* stamens: here belong some of your old acquaintances, the aggregate flowers, and another natural tribe, the stellated, so

named on account of the leaves radiating from the stem in the manner of a star— here is an example at your feet," said Mary, leaning forwards to gather a spray of heath-galium.

"The next class, Pentandria (five stamens), is estimated to contain one-tenth part of the vegetable world. Here we find many natural orders: to the *præciæ* belong the cowslip, primrose, auricula, &c. Borage and cerinthe are examples of another natural order, the *asperifoliæ*, or rough-leaved. The *campanaceæ*, or flowers with a bell-shaped corolla of one petal, as the convolvulus, &c. belong to the same class. Here too you will discover the *luridæ*, which tribe, notwithstanding the disagreeable scent and appearance of many individuals, nevertheless contains some handsome plants; mullein and tobacco are found in this obnoxious company. Nicotiana, the botanical name of tobacco, is derived from Nicot, French ambassador to the court of Portugal, who first diffused the knowledge of the plant over Europe.

Notwithstanding its general use, the *oil* of this plant is said to be the strongest of vegetable poisons.

"Common periwinkle affords an example of another natural order, the *contortæ*. The name is taken from the manner in which the petals are turned, in the same direction with the apparent motion of the sun.

"The second order (Digynia) of this class contains the umbellate tribe, which you worked so hard, you tell me, to understand. In the sixth class, Hexandria, which has six *equal* stamens, you will find the liliaceous tribe. The seventh class, Heptandria (seven stamens), is the smallest of all the classes: the horse-chestnut, when in flower, affords a fine opportunity for studying it.

"Many beautiful flowers belong to the eighth class, Octandria; the willow-herbs, evening-primrose, mezereon, &c. you will find here. It is highly amusing to observe the opening of the flowers of the evening primrose; it may literally be *seen*

to blossom. 'The petals are held together at the top by the hooks at the end of the calyx, the segments of which separate at bottom, discovering the corolla a long time before it acquires sufficient expansive force to unhook the calyx at top; when it has accomplished this, it expands almost instantaneously to a certain point; it then makes a stop, taking time to spread out quite flat: it may be half-an-hour from the first bursting of the calyx at the bottom to the final expansion of the corolla, which commonly becomes flaccid in the course of the next day, according to the heat or coolness of the weather.' Will you not be desirous of ascertaining the truth of this account by examining the plant?"

"Oh yes! but I think I have seen blossoms in the daytime."

"So have I; but the most usual time of opening is the evening."

"The only British plant of the ninth class, Enneandria, is the flowering rush you have, perhaps, frequently seen, with-

out knowing it, in the stream which runs at the bottom of your uncle's garden. Many remarkable foreign plants belong to this class, as camphor, cinnamon, benzoin, and rhubarb.

"The tenth class, Decandria, has ten stamens, and is a large one; but its characters are easy, and examples of it frequent. Let us then pass on to the eleventh, Dodecandria, which is one of the most difficult to ascertain, no plant having eleven distinct stamens, and the number twelve is by no means constant, so that the eleventh class comprehends all such as have from twelve to nineteen stamens inclusive. Yet sometimes the stamens are fewer than twelve, or more than nineteen in number, or appear successively. To give you some idea of the plants which compose this class, I shall mention that the well-known flower mignonette, and the large family of spurges, are all of the class dodecandria; the latter are an instance of the successive appearance of the stamens.

“ We can no longer pursue this simple method of determining the class by the number of the stamens. The twelfth class, Icosandria, has the stamens inserted either upon the calyx or the corolla; their number is generally from twenty to a hundred. It is a noted observation, that ‘ whenever a plant is found that has the stamens inserted in the calyx, the fruit is always eatable;’ this is said, by the author of “ English Botany,” to be a never-failing rule. The thirteenth class, Polyandria, has from twenty to a thousand stamens, which do *not* adhere to the calyx, but spring from the *receptacle*. As the former class contains many of the most delicious fruits, so to the present belong plants of an acrid and poisonous quality.

“ In the two next classes, not only the number of stamens is to be observed, but the reciprocal proportions in respect to height. The fourteenth class, Didynamia (two powers), has four stamens, of which two are lower than the other two; the co-

rollas are labiate. Here your work will be very easy; old acquaintances surround you. The next class too you are well acquainted with, under the appellation of the cruciform tribe.

"Tetradynamia (four powers) is the name of the fifteenth class. It has six stamens, of which four are taller, and the two lower ones are opposite to each other. Plants of this class, which grow in moist places, are acrid. Their virtues are lost by drying. There is no noxious or hurtful plant in the whole class.

"The flowers of the sixteenth class, Monadelphia (one brotherhood), have the name of *columniferous*, from the circumstance of the receptacle standing up in the middle of the flower like a column, which is completely enveloped in the united filaments. Mallows and other plants of this class have medicinal virtues, and none of the whole tribe are hurtful. You will remember that plants of the same *genus* in the artificial system agree in their medicinal virtues; those of the

same order in the *natural method* are of the same virtues.

"For the papilionaceous tribe you must now learn another name; the seventeenth class is composed of those plants which have many stamens united by their filaments into two companies, and are also distinguished by papilionaceous corollas, whence the name Diadelphia, two brotherhoods.

"The eighteenth class, Polyadelphia, has many stamens united into three or more companies by their filaments, which form little tufts, resembling pencils: Hypericum is an example of the class.

"Syngenesia is the name of the nineteenth class. Its character is 'many stamens united by their anthers;' but what will render it more intelligible to you, is the information that it is composed of the tribe of compound flowers. Plants of the syngenesia class are bitter, and few of them injurious; the wild lettuce is poisonous: on the other hand, we find, amongst the numerous members of this large class,

plants endued with medicinal virtues; the chamomile, for instance.

"The twentieth class, Gynandria, differs in its characters from all those you are yet acquainted with; it has many stamens attached to the pistil: here belong the orchis tribe, which you thought so curious in their structure. Next spring I hope to visit the chalk-pits near D——, where I expect to find the bee-orchis; many years since it grew in tolerable quantities around that spot.

"The next three classes differ essentially from all which have preceded them, the parts of the fructification being no longer contained within one blossom. In the twenty-first class, Monœcia (one house), the staminiferous flowers, that is, flowers bearing stamens only, are separate from those which bear pistils only; but the flowers, though separate, are still on the same plant. The cucumber and hazel are familiar examples.

"The twenty-second class, Diœcia, has the staminiferous and pistilliferous blos-

soms separate, on *different* plants. The next time you see a crop of spinach running to seed, take the opportunity of examining the fructification—you will trace it hither.

"The character of the twenty-third class, Polygamia, consists in having 'complete flowers accompanied by one or both sorts of incomplete ones, either on the same or different individuals.' Pellitory of the wall, and the maple and sycamore, will render the intricate character of the class more familiar to your comprehension than any description I can give.

"The twenty-fourth and last class is Cryptogamia, which contains those plants whose flowers are not discernible. The mushroom is almost the only plant of the tribe whose qualities are not suspected.

"Come," said Mary, rising up, "let us be walking homewards; as we pass along I can finish this long lecture."

"You have now some idea of the grand divisions of the vegetable world; I must now lead you to their subdivisions—the

orders. The orders of the first *thirteen* classes are founded on the number of pistils, and are distinguished by the names—one pistil, monogynia; two pistils, digynia, &c.

"The fourteenth class, didynamia, is, you already know, divided into two natural orders—into such as have their seeds naked at the bottom of the calyx, and such as have their seeds enclosed in a capsule.

"The tetradynamia, or class of four powers, is also divided into two orders; in one of these the seeds are in a sicule, as in shepherd's purse; in the other they are enclosed in a silique, as in the wallflower. In all the other classes, excepting syngenesia and cryptogamia, the character of the orders is marked by the number of the anthers.

"The orders of the syngenesia class are intricate; 'they are chiefly distinguished by the fertility or barrenness of the florets of the disk or ray of the compound flower.' The four orders of the cryptogamia

class are termed ferns, mosses, seaweeds, and funguses.

"The genera contained in the orders of the several classes come next under consideration; a list of them will be found under the head of the several orders in Berkenhout's Botanical Lexicon, which generally lies upon the study table. I advise you to look them over; do not be dismayed at the catalogue, but make a cross with your pencil over each genus as you make acquaintance with it. This will be a gradual work, but endeavour to ascertain the generic character of every plant which comes within your observation. The volume already in your possession will still assist you, and Berkenhout's Synopsis, or the English Botany, are at your service when you need them. I will give you a hint in what manner you must proceed. Here is one species of veronica. Now the generic character is this —'Veronica.—Gen. char. Corolla inferior, of one petal, four-cleft, wheel-shaped,

lower division narrowest. Capsule two-celled.'

"This description ascertains the family; the individual has its separate characteristics. I will select one of the forty species.—'Veronica officinalis.—Sp. cha. Spikes lateral, on stalks. Leaves opposite, rough stem procumbent."

"To make your *hortus siccus* essentially useful, note down under each plant its generic and specific characters, together with the soil the plant prefers, and the time of flowering."

"Has not the walk to Mrs. Austin's been a fine thing for me?" said Fanny, walking up to Algernon on her return. "I have had such a long lecture on botany."

"Its length is no *proof* of its value, Fanny," replied Algernon; "but since you are not tired by it, I take for granted that my sister's apparent design will have full effect, and that, with clear general views, you will now proceed with fresh alacrity."

CHAPTER XII.



"ICHTHYOPHAGI—logomachy—I cannot understand such hard words," said Fanny, presenting to Miss Trevor a pamphlet, in which she had been reading to the pastor at his request.

Mary.—What do you complain of so bitterly?

Fanny.—Of these hard words; I cannot find their meaning; and the sense of what I read is often interrupted by such. Besides, it makes me so troublesome to be always asking for explanations; and when I seek them for myself, they are not always to be found. How much good you would do for me, my dear Miss Trevor, if you could give me some general clue!

Mary.—I am indeed the owner of an unerring clue, which I hope one day to see you likewise possessed of. Such is the

nature of the treasure, that the store of the proprietor is augmented while he imparts it.

Fanny.—Ah, what can it be, that will make me understand the meaning of words without turning over a dictionary?

Mary.—Do not entertain an aversion for dictionaries; hereafter you will especially require their aid, for it is by leading you to the study of several different languages, that I propose to render your own fully intelligible: thus, "ichthyophagi" is derived from two Greek words signifying *eaters of fish*; and "logomachy," from two others, which import the *strife of words*. This explanation would have been easily obtained, had you possessed a slight knowledge of the language whence they are derived.

Fanny.—Oh, how delightful must the study of languages be, since it can thus explain difficulties! when will you allow me to enter upon it?

Mary.—The study is indeed pleasurable, but I must not leave you in igno-

rance of the arduous nature of the task; it is such that the utmost application and diligence are requisite. I shall have little fear for your success, if you fully perceive the advantages which arise from the pursuit; but that persuasion I consider necessary to animate your progress. The usefulness of the study of languages is very extensive; you have already discovered one essential advantage it affords—I mean the assistance to be derived hence in understanding the meaning of words. Would you not also feel greatly mortified to find the thread of some interesting subject interrupted by Latin or Greek quotations, in which the meaning of the author was wholly locked up from you? I know you would; yet this must be the case if you remain unacquainted with every language but your own, when works of a higher class than those now familiar to you are put into your hands. Many other pleasures persevering industry will procure for you. The works of those celebrated authors, whose fame we hear of from our childhood, will

become accessible to you in the original; thus your means of information are multiplied, and the sources of poetical allusions are displayed before you. Nor are these the only privileges attendant on the study; an enlarged view of the general principles of grammar is obtained, and many new combinations of ideas are formed during our progress. As usual, I see you impatient to commence a study which promises much gratification; but at present be satisfied—you have sufficient occupation for your time and attention. If you like to learn the characters of the Greek alphabet, I have no objection; you will soon find the knowledge of them useful, being employed in specifying the magnitudes of the fixed stars on the celestial globe.

Thus the summer passed away. Upon each month Fanny could look back with delight, remembering it as the period of her entrance upon some valuable branch of instruction. Autumn, and the anniversary of her introduction as an inhabitant of the parsonage, succeeded. The ap-

pearance of the surrounding scenery reminded her, that the season was arrived when her kind friend drew her from a state of wearisome subjection, and placed her in a situation where her happiness was daily increasing with her mental improvement.

"I shall always love autumn," said Fanny, "because I came to live with you then; the falling leaves remind me so strongly of the day when you came to fetch me home, that I look with pleasure even upon them—how they rustled beneath our feet as we went up to the graves of our pastor's family in passing through the churchyard!"

"Ah!" replied Mary, "I well remember the day; it was the first time that I had been able to visit the spot where my once-gay playfellows were laid. How continually do the different apartments of this dwelling remind me of them!—but I check the regret which such remembrances awaken, with, I trust, the well-grounded reflection, that children, not less pure and

affectionate than themselves, still assemble beneath the roof of the revered friend with whom we have the happiness to dwell. But why does the falling leaf call me to your remembrance? Tell me this, and likewise try to discover the principle which is illustrated in those lines which Algernon has been transcribing.

Why does the melting voice, the tuneful string,
A sigh of woe, a tear of pleasure, bring?
Can simple sounds, or joy or grief inspire,
And melt the soul responsive to the wire?
Ah, no! some other charm to rapture draws,
More than the finger's skill, the artist's laws;
Some latent feeling that the string awakes,
Starts to new life, and through the fibres shakes;
Some cottage home, where first the strain was heard,
By many a tie of former days endear'd;
Some youth who first awoke the pensive lay,
Friend of thy infant years—now far away;
Some scene that patriot blood embalms in song;
Some brook that winds thy native vales among—
All steal into the soul in witching strain,
Till home, the friend, the scene appear again.

FINLAY.

"Ah, beautiful!" said Fanny, when Mary had ceased to speak, "this is the power of association."

"You are right; and now do you not perceive how much your pleasures are increased by that little portion of knowledge which you have gained in the short time we have lived together? This time last year, instead of entering fully into the subject of those charming lines, you would most probably have felt only an indistinct emotion, called forth by the musical flow of the verse, and the tender strain of the ideas. Thus when winter arrives and checks your botanical progress, increasing taste will procure for you many refined gratifications which were untasted last season; then you will begin to appreciate the value of genius and invention, to which we owe those literary productions which embellish our leisure hours in the months when the pleasures arising from the contemplation of natural beauty are considerably curtailed."

"I have no correct idea of taste," said

Fanny; "I think, ma'am, it has never been explained to me."

"I believe not, or at any rate I have said very little to you upon that and many other difficult subjects. At present, if you can promise undistracted attention, I advise you to draw your chair hither, and read those passages which I have long since marked for your use in the volume before me."

"The emotion of taste, though simple in its operation, is derived from complex sources; its very existence depends on the vigour of conception, and implies the exercise of judgment. Nor are these faculties alone equal to the production of this delightful emotion, as we may be convinced by observing the number of persons who possess these faculties in an eminent degree, who, nevertheless, are incapable of experiencing the emotions of taste. Without a certain portion of sensibility, I believe true taste is never found; how much this sensibility depends upon organization, I cannot presume to determine; but that it is seldom the boon

of uncultivated minds, experience affords us convincing proof. To perceive and to enjoy whatever is beautiful or sublime in the works of nature or of art, is the peculiar privilege of taste; its emotions are accordingly divided, by an elegant and judicious author *, into the *emotions* of *sublimity*, and the *emotions* of *beauty*. The qualities that produce these emotions are to be found in almost every class of the objects of human knowledge, and the emotions themselves afford one of the most extensive sources of human delight; they occur to us amid every variety of external scenery, and among many diversities of disposition and affection in the mind of man. The most pleasing arts of human invention are altogether directed to their pursuit, and even the necessary arts are exalted into dignity by the genius that can unite beauty with use. That a susceptibility to the emotion of taste does not altogether depend upon the original frame

* Alison on Taste.

of our nature, is evident from its being entirely confined to minds possessing a certain degree of cultivation; whereas the emotions of surprise, joy, wonder, &c. are felt by all.

* * * * * *

"The more deeply we examine this curious subject, the more fully shall we be convinced that the emotions of taste entirely depend upon the train of ideas which are called up in the mind by certain objects of perception. If the mind has not been previously stored with ideas that can be thus associated, the finest objects of sublimity or beauty will never give a pleasurable sensation to the breast; they may be viewed with wonder, with admiration, but will never produce emotions of sublimity or beauty.

"The above observations may be further illustrated by reflecting on the manner in which a taste for the beauties of nature in the material world, and for the beauties of poetry, enhance each other. A young mind accustomed to the contemplation of

rural scenery is enraptured by the poetical descriptions which present a transcript of all that had so often charmed the imagination.

"The elevated sentiments and sublime descriptions of the poet, on the other hand, give a number of new associations, which are henceforth called up by the scenes of nature, and become to the mind of sensibility a new and inexhaustible source of delight."

"The power of invention," said Mary, after some conversation explanatory of the passages which her pupil had been reading, "is still more complex in its nature. Hear the definition given of it by Hartley, an author to whom I shall gladly refer you whenever he is intelligible to a youthful mind. 'Copiousness and quickness of invention are principal requisites for the cultivation of the arts and sciences with success. Invention then may be defined —the art of producing new beauties in works of imagination, and new truths in matters of science; and it seems to depend

chiefly on these three things—First, a strong and quick memory; secondly, an extensive knowledge in the arts and sciences, and particularly in those which are contiguous to, or not far distant from, that under consideration; and thirdly, the habit of forming and pursuing analogies, the deviations from these, and the subordinate analogies visible in many of these first deviations, &c.

"First, a strong and quick memory is necessary, that so the ideas of the poet or philosopher may depend upon, and be readily suggested by each other.

"Secondly, he must have a large stock of ideas, for the purposes of figures, illustrations, comparisons, arguments, criterions, &c.; and it is evident that the ideas taken from such parts of knowledge as are pretty nearly allied to his particular study will be of most use to him in it.

"Thirdly, analogy will lead him by degrees, in works of fancy, from the works of celebrated masters to others less and less resembling these, till at last he ar-

rives at such as have no visible resemblance. Deviations, and the subordinate analogies contained within them, will do this in a much greater degree; and all analogies will instruct him how to model properly such entirely-new thoughts as his memory and acquaintance with things have suggested to him. In science analogy leads on perpetually to new propositions; and being itself some presumption of truth, is a guide much preferable to mere imagination. It may be observed that the trains of visible ideas which accompany our thoughts, are the principal fund for invention, both in matters of fancy and in science.

CHAPTER XIII.

"I HAVE found some wild hypericums at last," exclaimed Fanny, coming eagerly into the breakfast-room.

Algernon took up hypericum perforatum, and having examined it, said—"So all the use that you have hitherto made of your flowers, is to discover their place according to the arrangement of Linnæus, and preserve them in papers for a *hortus siccus*."

"Slowly and surely, you know, Algernon," observed his sister.

Fanny.—Oh! Mr. Algernon knows some secret about this hypericum, I am sure; he often makes me find out something new, or raises my expectations of it from himself.

Algernon.—Suppose I tell you that chemistry and pharmacy (which is the art of preparing medicines) are closely allied to botany; that a good botanist is not satisfied with the external beauties of the vegetable kingdom, but is well acquainted with their various properties, and their uses in medicine and chemistry. Some plants are affected by the state of the air, and foretel rain; others will help you to determine the hour of the day.

"And others are not less interesting," said Vernor, entering the room, "from being mentioned by authors of high antiquity, and known to nations long previous to their holding a rank among civilized countries. Here, Fanny, is vervain; Pliny informs us that this plant was carried by ambassadors when they went to demand satisfaction for depredations; he who carried the plant was called Verbenarius."

Fanny.—Now my hypericum, if you please.

Algernon.—The tops and flowers give a fine red to water, a bright crimson to vinegar, and with stronger acids yellow. What do I mean by the stronger acids?

Fanny.—Mineral acids, such as vitriolic and nitric acids; so my flower will make a dye!

Algernon.—A neutral salt is needful to render the colour fine; this is called the mordant. Alum and muriate of tin are the most efficacious. The colouring principle is found in many vegetables; some

contain it in the bark, others in the leaves and stalks. Logwood, sumach, indigo, woad, weld, archil, arnatto, and many of our wild plants, afford it. The art of dyeing consists in transferring the colouring principle of one body to another, so that it shall be durably fixed. Blue, red, and yellow, are the fundamental colours. Now some vegetables give out the colouring matter to spirit of wine only, and are used for smaller articles, as ribbons, &c. Water again dissolves the whole of the colouring matter in other plants. Sumach, of which we have a tree in the shrubbery, gives out its yellow hue to the article boiled in it, or only plunged into the dye, and suffered to remain some hours. Other colouring matters do not yield to water, unless an alkali is added, or lime; for example, those gloves that you wear may be restored to a good buff by this process. Arnatto possesses a colouring principle of that hue, but it is not wholly soluble in water; add an equal quantity of potash, and

either boil, or only leave them to dissolve, and you will have a good nankeen dye.

Fanny.—Oh, I shall never have time to be certain from my own experience of half these wonderful properties.

Vernor.—The facts that Algernon has mentioned to you are all well ascertained; you may perform many experiments in dyeing very easily, particularly with the vegetables of your own country; we will ere long visit a calico-printer of my acquaintance, and you will have some enlarged ideas of the mordants and their use.

Algernon.—There are vegetables which contain iron, and even gold, in their ashes. Lime and magnesia are also found in plants. Flint has been discovered in the joints of the bamboo. Bonnet-cane, and all cane of this kind, when briskly rubbed together, produce sparks of white light; similar effects are produced when the cane is struck by steel. These phenomena appear to proceed from the epidermis or

outer rind of this cane containing *silex*, that is *flint*. Other canes yield silex, but in less quantity, but it was found in English reeds and grasses; possessing potash also with the silex, they yield glass by the blowpipe; and a straw was converted into a fine pellucid globule of glass.

Vernor.—Your authority, my young lecturer, for this wonder?

Algernon.—Sir H. Davy.

Vernor.—Very good.

In the course of the day, Fanny went with Mary to a cottage in the neighbourhood, the mistress of which was preparing a lie for washing. The recently-discovered alliance between her two favourite pursuits still occupied her mind, and the sight of wood-ashes was sufficient to excite inquiry.

"Why do you mix those ashes with water, Mrs. Newman?"

"To soften the water and make it more cleansing," replied the cottager; "I do not mix the ashes, but let the water run through them very slow."

"That is strange," said Fanny; "can you not tell what is in those ashes?"

"No, indeed, Miss, but it helps to get my linen clean; they are wood-ashes."

"I must know the properties of those ashes," said Fanny, as they returned.

"You have now acquired a little chemical knowledge," observed Mary; "I should wish to see it of service. I should have expected that the observation, 'it helps to get my linen clean,' would have immediately suggested something like the truth; your knowledge should aid you in explaining what seems extraordinary. Would it not be better to reflect upon the subject, or have recourse to your elementary books, rather than depend solely upon your friends to solve the enigma?"

Fanny had recourse shortly afterwards to the "Natural History of the Year," to ascertain the time of the swift's departure. In reading the month of August, she observed, that "ferns are burned when green for the alkali they contain."

"At last I have overcome the difficulty,"

she exclaimed, after a long silence; "these wood-ashes contain an alkali—it is potash; how could I forget that alkali is procured thus?"

Mary.—Now then you have a clue to explain the enigma of the lixivium of wood-ashes at the heath cottage.

Fanny.—The water takes up the alkali in passing through the ashes; now it is the alkali in the soap that cleanses, and this additional potash in some manner counteracts the hardness of the water Mrs. Newman was forced to use.

Mary.—But how does it happen that spring-water requires this additional preparation, whilst rain-water is in general request for the purpose of washing?

Fanny.—Pray, Mr. Algernon, answer for me; and I should be glad to know likewise.

Algernon.—The waters that flow within or upon the surface of the earth contain various earthy, saline, metallic, or vegetable particles, according to the substances over or through which they pass. Rain and

snow water are much purer than these, although they contain whatever floats in the air. Selenite or gypsum gives water its hardness; the sulphuric acid of the selenite attaches itself to the alkali of the soap, while the oil (which you know is the other ingredient of it) and the lime of the selenite, are separated and appear in flakes, giving the appearance of curdling; the alkali of wood-ashes decomposes the selenite. Hard-water contains also lime or chalk, which may be separated, and forms the fur upon tea-kettles. Hence it is more wholesome to drink pump or spring water after it has been freed from its impurity by boiling; rain-water being unmixed with these bodies, the soap is consequently soluble in it. The acid of gypsum is discoverable in water by a few drops of oil of tartar after standing some time; the lime may be detected by a few drops of the acid of sugar.

Fanny.—How is sugar to be made sour, I wonder?

Algernon.—A celebrated chemist has

discovered that a strong acid may be extracted from sugar by means of the nitric acid. Now I return to your botany; do you know a beautiful little plant called wood-sorrel?

Fanny.—Oh yes, very well.

Algernon.—This plant has been found to possess naturally the acid procured from sugar by art; it is found also in the common sorrel; this salt is equally good as a test of lime. Now you have the means of proving the different degrees of purity in the springs around us, I suppose you will give up your tin botanizing case for a clear phial to bring home water.

Fanny.—Oh no, I shall carry them both; but how shall I get *oil* of tartar? I know you have plenty of the salt.

Algernon.—Salt of tartar, and the alkali procured from vegetables, contract by the humidity of the air and melt into a liquor: this is called oil of tartar.

"This is very useful and interesting information," said Vernor; "it tends to enlarge the ideas, and affords subjects for re-

flection, frequently too proving of benefit in our course through life. But some knowledge of the sciences we have been noticing has prevented persons from using noxious or poisonous herbs, and very often, when poison has been inadvertently or wilfully taken, those who possess chemical knowledge have administered timely antidotes, and saved valuable lives, sometimes rescued the victims of passion or despair from premature death."

A noise in the front of the house interrupted the conversation, and a young servant came eagerly to tell them that a man had come to the door followed by a number of the villagers, who were quite amazed at the wonderful things he had been performing—"He says, sir," she continued to Algernon, "that he can carry water in a handkerchief."

"Oh! let us go and see him do it," exclaimed Fanny, "for I will not believe unless I see."

"I am sure the man must be a con-

jurer," said the servant, "and so they all think; I wish he was well out of the village."

"Nonsense, Susan!" replied Algernon, moving toward the door, "I can do the same thing, and many more as wonderful."

"To be sure, sir, you have odd things in your closets; but this man has nothing of the kind."

"It is however by the help of such odd things, and often a very great degree of quickness, that these people impose on others; be assured this is always the case, and in future endeavour to watch these conjurers, or ask some one, who, like me, is in possession of odd-looking things, to explain the matter reasonably."

"Well, friend," said he to the stranger, "what must we give you for this extraordinary exhibition?"

"Whatever your honour thinks proper."

"Fetch us then water in this handkerchief from the pond yonder."

The water was immediately brought,

tied in the handkerchief, and presented to Algernon. Fanny clapped her hands exultingly.

"Now form a circle," said Algernon, "and I will come again directly."

He speedily returned with a large vessel of water, which he placed on the ground; he bade them observe that two shillings were at the bottom; he made them observe his hand, and then plunging it into the water, took out the shilling without wetting it in the least degree.

"Now, Susan," said he, "take out the other."

The servant complied, and found her hand dry; he then brought water with equal success as the stranger, and wonder seized the spectators.

"I have done this," said he to them, "that you might be convinced this person has no supernatural means of performing a few actions out of the usual manner; he is acquainted with an herb, I presume, the very small seeds of which repel water; this handkerchief was strewed over with

it while he was at the pond, and the surface of the water in my bason was covered in the same manner, which defended my hand from the contact of the water."

"I get my bread by this means," said the man, "and you tell the secret of my trade."

"We would not treat you unhandsomely," replied Algernon; "I had resolved to give you this money, but I cannot allow these persons to hold the idea that you are able to perform miracles; we pay you for the amusement, but you should not practise upon the ignorance and credulity of people."

The stranger, satisfied with his recompence, departed, and the spectators resolved not to be again taken in.

On returning to the parlour, Algernon presented Fanny with the dust of lycopodium, which he told her was the seed of club-moss—"I have had it a long time," said he, "having bought it to imitate the lightning at the London theatres; if strewed in the air, it takes fire from a can-

dle, and burns off like a flash of lightning."

"Chemistry is a wonderful science indeed," said Fanny, "and to-morrow I shall go with Miss Trevor to search for club-moss."

"It produces moral good," observed Mary; "our neighbours will not easily attribute supernatural powers to these poor wanderers, and I see that Susan is quite convinced by the trial she was wisely suffered to make."

"Shall we produce lightning when it is dark?" said Fanny.

"I am engaged this evening," replied Algernon; "to-morrow I am at your service."

"I always wish you to be pleased, but to-morrow will seem very long; yet I would not detain you, had I the power, you are so good and so clever."

"Farewell."

CHAPTER XIV.



"Line upon line, and precept upon precept; here a little, and there a little."

THE ensuing winter passed away in happiness and enjoyments beyond the expectation of Fanny, whose imagination, charmed with the luxuriant beauties of the past season, and the pleasures resulting from them, had drawn an unjust and unfaithful picture of the present. She had forgotten that to a mind attentive to every natural appearance, even the change of season must produce new gratifications by introducing new information to the mind.

"No longer did she lament the short continuance of the daylight, and the absence of the warm weather, happy to avail herself of the uninterrupted quiet of

the long evenings to pursue her varied and pleasurable occupations.

The study of geography was now enlivened by an explanation of the use of the terrestrial globe; and the fine frosty evenings were devoted to the acquisition of clear astronomical ideas. Fanny rejoiced when the imaginary north pole was pointed out to her, and stood in silent rapture while Mary traced through the glittering firmament the circles of the sphere. Conversant with the revolutions of the heavenly bodies, through the varied seasons of her own climate, she was prepared to understand the description of their appearance in opposite latitudes and meridians. All that observation could effect, her kind instructress eagerly sought for her information; and when subjects beyond its reach called for attention, enlightened and familiarized the abstruse parts of science. "Ah," said Fanny, "how falsely I judged! the pleasures of knowledge 'wreath the whole circle of the year."

In the course of a few months, Fanny

having attended with great diligence to the higher rules of arithmetic, the Latin grammar was opened, and she was gratified by entering upon this desirable study, passing with credit and satisfaction through the pages, which by many are long remembered as the sources of tears and vexation.

Vernor's long residence in the neighbourhood had rendered him so universally known, and his talents and virtues so eminently beloved and honoured, that frequent and earnest were the applications made to him for advice and recommendation. Hence he was continually engaged; for notwithstanding the infirmities of age were fast advancing, he had hitherto deserted none of his usual occupations. Since the arrival of his young friends at Uston, he had occasionally requested Mary or Algernon to write answers for him to some of the numerous letters he was in the habit of receiving.

Practice had now so much improved Fanny's epistolary style, that Vernor fre-

quently applied to her for assistance, when business of slight importance permitted him to entrust it to her care.

Her willingness to please him to whom she owed such invaluable benefits, led her to exert her best abilities in this service, but at the same time taught her to scrutinize minutely the productions of her pen. Thus she became aware of her deficiency in some branches of learning, of which she had hitherto never learned the necessity; yet the want of this instruction could not be overbalanced by all her fluency and readiness of expression.

Defective punctuation sometimes obscured the sense of her expressions, or equal obscurity arose from the want of a due attention to the arrangement of her sentences. The source of these errors she no sooner found to proceed from her own ignorance, than she became anxious, in more than a usual degree, to be well acquainted with all the requisites for forming a perspicuous and elegant style.

Employments now pressed fast upon

her, and she frequently spoke with regret of the years that had passed away in her uncle's family, considering that time as lost which had been devoted to opposite pursuits.

"Your concern is *natural*," observed Mary, "but I must add *unwise;* so also would be the wish I was about to express —that I had been permitted to return hither sooner, since that arrangement which it was necessary to adopt, and which we lamented as a misfortune, has proved of essential benefit in confirming your early impressions in favour of all that is truly excellent; the fear that it would have an opposite tendency constituted our chief reluctance to pursue it.

"Had you immediately come to reside with me, you would certainly have made far greater progress in learning; but there is a species of information which I doubt my ability to impress, with adequate force, upon a mind totally ignorant of the *realities* of human sorrows.

"Think it then no light advantage to

have witnessed the evils resulting from ignorance and unrestrained passions, but be grateful for this stimulus to unwearied diligence in a virtuous course. However unpleasant during their continuance, the mortifications, disgust, and sorrow, you once experienced, I consider them as amply compensated by the sincere desire you constantly manifest to prevent others from suffering similar distresses. At this early age, to have had the judgment improved, and the benevolent affections strengthened by experience of the vicissitudes of life, is an advantage far above competition with the absence of that information you regret, and which industry will soon enable you to attain."

"Well then I must be satisfied to be of little use for a few years longer, because you will not say, I think, Miss Trevor, that my *employments* at the farm will ever be of much service to me, now I am happily placed in a more refined station."

"Yes," rejoined Mary, "I expect that many opportunities will present them-

selves when you will derive much benefit, both on your own account and that of others, from the time which was spent in attendance upon your aunt in her dairy and cheese-room."

Not many days after this conversation, they were informed of the death of Mrs. Graves, one of their neighbours, who had long been suffering under a painful and lingering disorder. She was a woman of excellent character, and the mother of a numerous family, the care of which now devolved upon Esther, the eldest daughter, who had been recalled from her situation in London to attend her mother during the latter weeks of her lengthened illness.

The distress of the father and that of Esther, together with the irreparable loss which the motherless children had sustained, awakened the sympathy of Vernor and his young inmates. Mary had recognised in Esther one of the elder pupils of the pastor, whose sensible sprightliness had much engaged her during her

former visit to Uston, which place the latter had quitted whilst Mary continued there, and had been placed under the care of an aunt in London. The care of her brothers and sisters, and the superintendance of her father's house, was a serious undertaking for Esther, who had few requisites for the task, except a strong affection for her family, and an earnest desire to fulfil her duty. For some time her attention had been wholly engrossed in studying the variations in fashionable female attire, and she returned home, little improved in any kind of usefulness which was likely to be serviceable in the regulation of a family fallen into confusion from the loss of its directress. Her father was continually engaged either in the fields or the farmyard, and when an opportunity offered of applying to him for directions, he was often unable to give them, or burst into lamentations for his lost, prudent, experienced wife.

Poor Esther at length became quite disheartened; she needed the advice of an

intelligent friend, and a sense of propriety restrained her from disclosing the state of her father's family, by availing herself of the assistance which even the notable housewives around her could have afforded. Hearing much of the good nature and condescension of Miss Trevor, she resolved to communicate her difficulties to her, whose kind interest for the welfare of the family had been shown in numerous instances.

Mary invited the further confidence of the well-intentioned girl, and proceeded to give her all needful information in those branches of domestic economy to which her own knowledge extended. Above all other services was that which she rendered her by imparting reasonable ideas respecting the treatment of her brothers and sisters, who had been lamentably neglected since their mother's watchfulness had been withdrawn.

Esther deserved this kindness, and the evident improvement in the comfort and deportment of a numerous family was a

sweet recompence for the solicitude Mary had been led to feel for them.

In the regulation of the dairy, and many other affairs peculiar to a farmer's kitchen, Mary could give her little information, and Esther looked forward with dread to the approaching spring, which must necessarily bring on a considerable addition to the occupations she had yet to become expert in; not that she troubled her kind friend with all these anxious cares; she endeavoured to conceal them; but Mary judged too well what were the difficulties of her situation to be thus blinded, and was silently contriving a plan to remove them.

Meanwhile the excellent girl enjoyed the heartfelt pleasure of seeing her venerable friend passing the evening of his days in comfort, long a stranger to his habitation. Her brother too, beyond her most flattering expectations, had recovered the energy and benevolence of character which once distinguished him in an eminent degree. The clouds which had so long sur-

rounded them had disappeared, and she desired to remember only the good which so much evil had elicited. Before affliction overtook her, she was herself passionate and hasty, but the sorrows of those dear to her had softened all that was harsh, and elevated, to a virtuous height, all that was lofty in her character.

Presumption had sullied the conduct of her brother; it had insensibly arisen from the esteem and honour his abilities and many virtues had excited, until leading him to embark in undertakings above his powers, for which he abandoned the profession which duty commanded him to follow, presumption drew him on to the verge of ruin. The force of early principle had happily prevailed in every temptation to dishonourable actions; but when once awakened to the perception of his blamable desertion of duty, and to the consequences it entailed, his anguish of mind had led his friends to fear the worst of consequences.

This fatal presumption was now crushed

for ever; Algernon, recovered from melancholy and despair, was eminently distinguished for humility and meekness. His affectionate sister was now tranquil as to his future destiny; the grand foe of his virtue and his happiness was no longer to be feared; Algernon, by bitter experience, had learned *to know himself.* Great were his obligations to his sister, and as boundless was his gratitude. For his sake she had endured all that sensibility could feel, and abandoned all which tenderness could value. In the enthusiasm of reverence and love, he believed no sacrifice too great, no suffering too acute, to be endured for her; but happily the delightful prospect which now presented itself gave little warning that such proofs of gratitude would be required. It was his delightful lot to enjoy the society of Mary; to share her pleasures, her studies, and pursuits; and with her to admire the venerable pattern of excellence before

them, to cheer his declining days, and to extend the sphere of his benevolence.

Happy was the effect of such virtuous society and example upon the docile mind of Fanny; grateful for her removal from associates* of a far different character, she had studied, ever since her admission to the parsonage, to copy, in some faint degree, the virtue which adorned the peaceful mansion.

To the instruction of the orphan, Algernon had at first applied, in compliance with his sister's request; but the employment increased in interest as he proceeded, till the attractive manners of his pupil, and her eager desire for knowledge, led him to seek every means of facilitating her improvement for her own sake only. It was in his power to impart much valuable information, and he consulted Mary in what new science her pupil should now be initiated.

"Next winter," replied Mary, "I should be thankful to you, if you will instruct

her in geometry; and, for the present, endeavour to give her an idea of the pronunciation of the French and Italian languages, by teaching her those colloquial phrases in each language which are adapted to the purpose. In this case I am only desirous that she should learn the true accent of the words, without attending to their meaning, lest hereafter, when the language comes in regular rotation to claim her attention, she should *Latinize* French and *Italianize* Latin. When she can readily parse and construe in the latter tongue, I purpose to follow up your verbal instructions with the study, first, of the French, then of the Italian grammar."

CHAPTER XV.



"YOUR Latin exercise is more than usually correct this morning," said Miss Tre-

vor, after overlooking her pupil's performance; "this accuracy promises well."

A glow of delight overspread the countenance of the young student, who rejoiced in the prospect of future proficiency in a study peculiarly interesting to her; and taking up Valpy's Exercises, she requested an explanation of the difficulties which her next lesson appeared to contain.

"Come," said her instructress, rising at length from the table, "I have answered all the questions you desired to put, now you must reply to mine; I am very desirous of learning your aunt Welford's method of making butter and cheese, since the produce of her dairy, I am told, exceeds that of her neighbours."

The proceedings of churning-day were still familiar to Fanny's remembrance, especially so, perhaps, on account of the vexation and disturbance her want of experience in the business had at first created; for slight errors were heinous offences, in the opinion of the thrifty housewife, when her cream was concerned,

though utterly regardless of souring the temper of her niece by unreasonable exactions and harsh reproofs.

"And can you undertake to perform what you describe?" asked Mary, when Fanny had given a very clear detail.

"I think so, especially if I could see the whole process once or twice more repeated."

"Then to-morrow let us rise very early, and I will take you to Esther Graves; we shall find her in the dairy, and I doubt not that the sight of the churning vessels will recall your aunt's peculiar method to remembrance. Thus you may essentially serve a worthy young person, and save much inconvenience to the whole family, since Susan and Hannah are now able to afford their sister sufficient assistance in the daily routine of employments, if this matter can be adjusted without the services of a stranger. But something must be done, her father told me yesterday; for his butter is sold to great disadvantage through her mismanagement."

"Now then," said Fanny, "I can comprehend the reason of Esther's remarkable good conduct, and the change in her brothers and sisters—ah! I see at once the occasion and the effects of your frequent visits at the farm. Let me go with you, my best friend, and strive to act like you."

They accordingly went the next and many succeeding days; Fanny put all her former knowledge in requisition, and after a little practice, proved herself as creditable a pupil of Mrs. Welford's, as her proficiency in different employments was satisfactory to Miss Trevor. Esther repaid her with sincere affection and gratitude, and farmer Graves was satisfied with the price that the produce of his dairy henceforth obtained.

Convinced by the foregoing little incident, that every employment, how disagreeable soever to the inclination, may, by the considerate, be at one time or other rendered productive of good, Fanny never henceforth indulged in undue lamentation respecting the past, nor, when called from

her beloved pursuits to the exercise of necessary but humble employments, did she indulge in fretfulness or impatience, remembering that literature loses its dignity when pursued through a desire of selfish gratification, and to the neglect of duty; she was easily led to conclude that "the lowest offices of humanity," fulfilled through a firm conviction that duty requires us to descend to them, become honourable and dignified from such motives of action.

For a long period, however, few were the calls upon her time, and she saw the returning summer with increased sources of gratification.

She was daily becoming more susceptible of refined and intellectual pleasures, and the charms of poetry began to unveil themselves before her in their full lustre. Her recent studies had been directed to this subject, in which her peculiar circumstances had strongly interested her affections. The morning of life had opened amidst scenes of transcendent beauty, and

with such scenes premature sorrow had early associated the most tender and affecting remembrances—now again she beheld them with an eye beaming with joy and the most heartfelt gratitude.

This early association of moral sentiments with natural beauty occasioned much of that deep interest with which she would listen to the harmonious voice of the pastor, when, as he was accustomed, he charmed away the languor of the summer's heat, or the severity of the winter's cold, by his eloquent recital of the compositions which Mary and Algernon loved to hear from his lips.

Mary, her watchful friend, perceived the readiness with which Fanny appeared to comprehend all which the pastor uttered, while poetry, read by herself or others, she complained of as unintelligible. This was a favourable time to impress her with the importance of acquiring a good style of reading, since her pupil was aware that the facility of understanding that which Vernor read to them, was the effect of

his expressive tones and well-placed emphasis.

It was Mary's opinion, that on clear and vigorous conception she must depend for the success of her efforts to lead her pupil to excellence in this valuable attainment. Accordingly Fanny was required to give literal prose versions of poetry, until she could readily explain, by this process, the most inverted and obscure passages. In this connexion the figures of speech, which had hitherto been overlooked, came under examination, and those also which more directly belong to poetry and oratory.

She was informed that figures are of two kinds; figures of *words*, and figures of *thought*.

"The first class are called *tropes*, and consist in the word being used to signify something different from its original meaning." Metaphor, allegory, metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, &c. belong to this class, and require no peculiarity

of pronunciation. On the contrary, the beauty of the other class is considerably dependent upon a suitable pronunciation; "they consist in the turn of thought, the words being used in their literal meaning." Here belong irony, exclamation, and numerous other figures which adorn language by their beauty, and animate it by their liveliness, when judiciously introduced. The laws of versification, the nature of poetical feet, and the different measures employed in English versification, were not forgotten.

Neither were these instructions fruitless; for with a clear understanding, a good ear, and a voice expressive of the emotions of a pure and affectionate heart, Fanny easily obtained the power of reading, with all that judgment and expression which her unwearied instructress required.

The frequent allusions Fanny met with in poetry to the history of her own country, and that of the nations of ancient times, rekindled her former desire to commence the study. She was answered that

some comprehensive ideas on the subject of chronology must be antecedently gained, which method was desirable, as affording a foundation, upon which memory could safely repose the mass of information with which she must necessarily be encumbered. Therefore to the science which teaches the method of measuring time, and of distinguishing its parts, Fanny first applied.

The pastor had, many years since, compiled a small work for the benefit of his rural scholars, in which a good idea was given of history in general, but more especially of that of the Hebrew nation. This little work was, of course, presented to Fanny, and an examination into the manner in which she had understood, and the degree in which she retained, the facts comprised therein, afforded Mary a clue in her future proceedings.

At a convenient part of the history, she drew her attention to that of the four great monarchies which successively laid claim to the dominion of the world. Hence

she designed slowly and carefully to lead her forwards, till she reached the point of time when present events are recorded in all the public journals which chance to meet the eye, losing the dignity of history by their recent occurrence, and when, under the name of politics, they form the never-failing theme of discussion in every private and public company.

This design she was however induced to alter; Roscoe's Life of Lorenzo de Medicis was one evening lying open in the study, and in an idle minute Fanny's eye glanced upon the account of the respectable founder of the family, Cosmo.

The description of the wealthy merchant's integrity and high respectability, of his vessels returning "laden with *bales of costly merchandize* and *rare manuscripts*," so excited her interest, that Mary resolved to take advantage of the incident, and select a course of modern history for her pupil, which should comprise the history of the revival of learning.—"You shall be informed of the history

of that which is so dear to you," said she to Fanny, "and read alternately of modern and ancient times. We are ever liable to experience vicissitude, and the time may not pass so pleasantly with you then if we wait until the period I once mentioned. That course of reading will require a length of time to complete it."

Amidst so much pleasurable occupation, Fanny was wholly inaccessible to the approach of ennui; she also extended and improved the acquisitions of the former seasons; her proficiency in drawing was very satisfactory, and to the application with which she pursued the study of botany, her *hortus siccus* bore honourable testimony. The collection was enriched with specimens of several new genera, and numerous species were arranged under those which it already contained. None of these were added to her treasure until their characters had been amply scrutinized—a task which was rendered delightfully easy by the privileges she enjoyed of referring to the valuable botanical works

in the library of the pastor, and to the still more valuable assistance of her friends.

Towards the close of the year her studies were awhile suspended, Algernon and Mary leaving her at Uston with the pastor, during their absence, whilst on a visit to their only surviving relation, who resided in the neighbourhood of London.

The often-repeated invitation of their cousin was accepted at this season of the year, partly in consequence of an important affair which rendered their presence in London desirable. Some months since they had received intelligence of the intended sale of a valuable estate which had once been numbered amongst their family possessions; and with the entire approbation of the pastor and other competent advisers, they repaired to London, where the business was appointed to be transacted, in order to complete the purchase, judged to be as advantageous to their interest as it was gratifying to their feelings. Their intention was no sooner mentioned in the village circle, than a re-

spectable tenant expressed his wish to take a long lease of the farm; this they were inclined to grant, since he offered handsome terms, and did not require to reside on the estate. The commodious dwellinghouse situated upon it, at the express injunction of Vernor, they purposed to dispose of to a yearly tenant only, that, when the much-deprecated event should take place which would force them to quit the parsonage, they might be already provided with a home.

Fanny's heart swelled with emotion when her friend arose to depart. Mary tenderly bade her pupil farewell; then shaking off the sadness which the time of departure had occasioned—"Fanny," said she, "remember that I leave *you* my representative, to offer my sincere good wishes, and the few presents I have been able to provide, to our venerable friends, who will assemble beneath this beloved roof on the approaching festival of Christmas. Occupy my place also amidst the circle of juvenile visitors on the first day

of the new year; in all things remember, that whatever, in the unseen and hidden years of futurity, may be my appointed lot, to you I look as my supporter and successor, and from you I hope to derive sources of satisfaction and self-approbation. Apply to study, as much as you are able; write to me freely and copiously on every subject in which you know I am interested. I leave you with satisfaction to the protection of our revered friend, and attention to him I will not affront you by recommending."

From Algernon too it grieved her exceedingly to part; and the whole family partaking of the same dejection, she felt little to cheer her during the remainder of the day.

The travellers meantime lost sight of the village spire; the remembrance of the friends they had quitted moved not however with the horizon, and projects for adding to their future comforts mingled themselves with their plans for increasing their own happiness.

CHAPTER XVI.



"The languishing head is at rest,
Its thinking and aching are o'er;
The quiet, immovable breast
Is heav'd by affliction no more."

UNEXPECTED circumstances detained the absentees in London until natural impediments conspired with the delays of business to prevent their return; the snows of winter had now fallen, and intercourse with the capital was greatly interrupted.

Fanny suffered considerable disappointment from this suspension of intercourse; the letters which she so eagerly expected, instead of meeting her at the breakfast-table, were frequently delayed beyond the hour of supper; and when the desired intelligence from Uston had been dispatched on her own part, she had frequently the mortification of hearing that the mail had

not been able to proceed many miles beyond S——.

Expectation still remained unsatisfied respecting the business which had induced them to travel so far from home at this inclement season; and the pastor felt not a little anxious on account of the severe cold which had attacked Mary soon after her arrival in London, and which the last accounts had led him to believe was considerably increased during her visit, knowing, by sad experience, the family tendency to consumption.

These apprehensions sometimes arose to a painful height amongst the affectionate friends from whom distance now separated Mary; they could scarcely forbear to picture her to themselves, suffering under the pressure of illness, at a distance from those whose care she had so amply earned—her affectionate pupil and Mrs. Barlow, to whose attentions she had no less a personal than an hereditary right.

A letter, which had been three days reaching Uston, at length arrived, an-

nouncing the conclusion of the business, on terms even more advantageous than had been expected. The subject of health was unnoticed, but Fanny was informed that a parcel, addressed to herself, would arrive in a few days.

A rapid thaw now succeeded, the roads were impassable from a different cause, the rivers overflowed their banks, and the meadows, for a season, were converted into lakes; when intelligence would arrive from London appeared doubtful, and the return of the travellers must, of necessity, be further delayed.

Ten days after the arrival of the last letter, Fanny, whom a country life had inured to every severity and inclemency of season, was returning from a peaceful walk towards the close of day. As she drew near home, she observed, by the faint remains of daylight, a carriage standing at the gate of the parsonage.

A gentleman, whose figure resembled that of Algernon, alighted from it, and soon a lady descended from the same car-

riage — But it could not be *Mary*, thought Fanny, the hapless appearance of the traveller was so unlike the agile, vigorous movements of her friend; but is vigour incapable of decay? is human nature invulnerable? can usefulness or virtue ensure length of days? The chilling thought pierced her inmost soul—yes, it might be the revered, the beloved Mary returning to die with her friends.

On entering the hall, the pastor, who had seen her approach, left the parlour to inform her of the return of her friends; his voice, his countenance, confirmed the most gloomy pictures of her imagination, yet, the first overflowings of a passionate grief subdued in secret, no weak, unseasonable sensibility in Fanny disturbed the melancholy lethargy into which Mary had fallen during the latter part of the journey.

In silent sorrow she complied with every direction given by the medical attendant, Mrs. Barlow, or the pastor; but to speak was an effort almost beyond her power.

Melancholy was the tale which the sorrowful Algernon related; his sister had neglected herself until her cold became changed into a serious indisposition, and even then he confessed himself so far deceived by her appearance, as to have acquiesced in her proposal to return home without delay, and there seek the relief which her situation required; but he discovered too late that the bloom to which he trusted was the fatal symptom of the fever which preyed upon her strength, and that the sanguine hopes of quick recovery which she repeatedly expressed—"Could she breathe the air of Uston once again," were delusive as the hectic flush which overspread her countenance.

So little did she perceive of her critical state, that her cousin's offer to accompany them home was refused as an unnecessary service, and solely at the entreaties of Algernon did she consent to rest so frequently on the route; but the fatigue of travelling far overbalanced the benefit she derived from purer air, and her illness increased as she

proceeded to the spot where she hoped to inhale new life and vigour.

At C——, Algernon, half distracted, used every persuasion to induce her to remain for a few days; they had many acquaintances in the town, skilful advice could be obtained there, and in a few hours her friends at Uston would be apprised of her arrival, and hasten to join her; but Mary, enfeebled by disease, for once was unreasonable, and her brother was obliged to abandon his prudent arrangement.

They did not leave C—— until rather a late hour the following day. Their approach to Uston was measured by the rapidly-increasing debility and languor which, by the time they reached their desired home, had reduced her to a state of lethargy and torpor. Alas! that one so capable of advising and conducting others to their good should have judged so erroneously respecting herself!

Mr. Wilson encouraged them to hope; her youth, her former excellent health, and

even her present languor, which he considered as the consequence of the ill-judged journey, were enumerated as favourable circumstances; but he strongly recommended that doctor L—— of S—— should be joined with him in the care of the amiable patient's restoration.

Deep was the interest her fate excited; few, perhaps, possessed of so little wealth, had, so early in life, commanded the respect, and engaged the affections, of all who surrounded her. Little alteration was perceptible during many succeeding days; the few words she uttered at very distant intervals were even more distressing than her general insensibility, being merely the wanderings of a diseased imagination.

From the first moment that Vernor beheld her on her return, he had read the characters of death legibly imprinted on every feature—those characters which again presented themselves to cut up, a second time, the dearest domestic joys.

In Mary's society he had learned almost to be happy, while, together with the loss

of that admirable girl, he anticipated the renewal of more than his former cares; he had been the noble supporter of his own resolution; but could he reasonably expect, depressed as his spirits must be by the dreaded event, to uphold that of Algernon, under circumstances which would again endanger his tranquillity? For the sorrow which must, for a length of time, oppress the tender and innocent object of Mary's unwearied care, he also felt extremely, lamenting to see the buds and opening blossoms of pure and genuine felicity thus blasted by the approach of premature decay; still for them, no less than for himself, he looked for the never-failing support of human woe—firm and enlightened confidence in the goodness of Providence.

The appearance of some tokens of returning consciousness gave fresh vigour to hope, which had not yet deserted either Algernon or Fanny; the latter incessantly watched for the moment when the delirium of sickness should pass away, and allow

her once more to listen, without distress, to the voice of her friend.

That moment she was speedily destined to hail, when, notwithstanding her altered form and feeble voice, Mary, on the bed of languishing, appeared the same as in the hour of her firmest health—the same consistent, generous, and benevolent character.

On first recovering the recollection of recent events, she appeared extremely desirous of preventing Algernon from considering himself as culpable in having yielded to her urgent entreaties to proceed on the journey from C——, assuring him that however erroneous that determination had been proved by its consequences to be, that it was made when the influence of disease had yet no power over her mind.

For the distress which her arrival, under such painful circumstances, must have occasioned the pastor and her pupil, she evidently felt extremely, and implored

their forgiveness for suffering them to remain in ignorance of her situation during the latter part of her visit in London. Her sanguine expectation, that to leave London and return to her native air, would ensure a quick recovery, had induced her to consider any intelligence of her illness as calculated to excite unnecessary alarm.

Not less tender was the sympathy she felt for the sorrowful scenes which awaited them; from the manner of her medical attendants, and the medicines they prescribed for her, she was too clearsighted not to perceive the danger of her situation. To prepare for the closing scene of life had been her constant aim ever since the first dawn of reason; and so deeply had she imbibed in early youth a sense of the necessity of this virtuous assiduity, that the sorrows which afterwards assailed her were considered less as misfortunes than as salutary correctors of the bad habits which, notwithstanding her utmost caution, she perceived, with regret, had taken root too firmly to be soon eradicated.

Adversity ensued, and the humility and seriousness to which it gave birth, allowed her time, and inspired her with fortitude, to examine the secret recesses of the heart, and draw forth, for ever from her bosom, the few evil propensities it harboured.

At the present awful crisis, great was the peace of mind she enjoyed; the poignant anguish she beheld in the countenances of the kind attendants who served her with the zeal of devoted attachment, bore grateful record to her agitated feelings, that she had lived long enough to be tenderly remembered by those whom she had substantially benefitted, and she regained the calm composure of virtue with this reflection.

In another view, the unfeigned sorrow which she beheld ceased to tranquillize her, and she no longer found pleasure in remembering that her duty had been fulfilled towards them; their wounded affection and impending bereavement engross-

ed her thoughts. Under this impression she would occasionally shake off the languor which depressed her, and try, by every endearing persuasive, to reconcile them to their altered circumstances.

Appealing alike to their principles and their affections, she exhorted them to resignation by every thing venerable and sacred, even by their sorrow itself—"If a separation for a short term on earth be thus lamented, what sacrifices too painful, what efforts too strenuous, can we make to secure an eternal reunion with those in whom we have found our greatest earthly treasures!"

Thus would she reason, more especially with her brother, and endeavour to associate inseparably together the sorrow and the consolation—her own premature dissolution, and the period when they should meet to separate no more.

The change in her intentions with regard to Fanny Welford had been some time since signified to the pastor, and had received the sanction of his warm appro-

bation; the arrangement was also highly pleasing to Algernon, who regarded his sister's favourite with all the affection and watchful care of an elder brother.

The letter which was designed to communicate this intelligence to Fanny was already written, and the packet which she had been led to expect was on the point of being forwarded to Uston, when the report of the danger to which the public conveyances were exposed from the sudden overflow which had inundated the roads in that part of the kingdom induced her to delay sending it, fearing for the safety of its valuable contents.

Meanwhile sickness overtook the generous friend of the orphan, and no sooner were the roads become passable again than she herself journeyed towards home. That welcome intelligence which, a few weeks since, would have called forth the highest transports of joy, was now delayed, lest it should affect too powerfully the affectionate object of her solicitude.

"It would now be too severe a trial of

her fortitude," said Mary, as she delivered the papers to Vernor, "to display the fair dreams of happiness I so recently believed we should all see realized, before an eye wet with the tears affection shed for my premature decline; still she must know how tenderly we loved her—how sweet was her affection—how highly prized her goodness and opening talents. At present it is preferable to inform her, that so far as money can avail, her unfinished education will find a compensation in the sister's portion, which I have felt myself bound in honour to allot for her from the first commencement of our interesting relation, in case death should interrupt the education whence her future maintenance I once intended should be derived. I know her thoroughly, and can predict that the time will arrive when the warm wishes of her early friend, and the disclosure of her plans, will not be in danger of inflicting agony upon her wounded spirit, but will rather calm and sooth her; then give her my letter—it was the last I ever wrote."

Thankful for the mitigation of her disorder, which now left her faculties unclouded, Mary directed them to their noblest employment during the few and uncertain hours that remained. In every direction she gave, in every wish she expressed, the benevolence of her heart shone forth conspicuous; her long and silent meditations bespoke the seriousness and composure of her mind; anxious apprehensions were only indulged for the future happiness of the pastor and her brother, and for the inexperienced Fanny, so soon, in all human probability, to be bereaved of her protectress.

She derived comfort from the hope that the days of her venerable friend might still be lengthened out, and strove to inspire the bosom of her pupil with those lofty principles of honour, and exquisite feelings of delicacy, which are so essential to the preservation of integrity and purity.

From her own experience she could enforce the necessity of discriminating accurately between the virtues and foibles of

those to whom she might hereafter attach herself, lest too easy a compliance with the requests of her companions should lead to the desertion of her acknowledged duties; no less did she enforce upon her mind the value of the power of penetration into human character in general.

To those valuable authors whose pages had, in former years, at once consoled and instructed herself, she directed the attention of Fanny, and even pointed out the course of study she would wish her to pursue. These last lessons, delivered in accents of the most affecting sweetness, by the friend whose form was rapidly sinking into the tomb, were cherished with a religious reverence in the bosom of the ingenuous girl who listened to them.

The early spring had now arrived, and Mary repeatedly expressed her earnest wish to witness once more the beauty of the natural world—that which had been so many former seasons the object of her warm and enlightened admiration.

Every token of reviving nature, each

early blossom and opening bud, appeared powerfully to affect her. Whenever the mildness of the weather would permit, she now desired to be carried in her elbow-chair into the different apartments of the parsonage.

As the season advanced, she entreated of her friends, with affecting eagerness, to contrive some method by which she might breathe the fresh and open air. A garden-chair was offered by a neighbour, but she could not remain a sufficient length of time in a sitting posture to make much use of this.

This request was the first and only one by which she had, during her long illness, exposed her friends to trouble or vexation, and the improbability of seeing it fulfilled distressed them. Their perplexity no sooner reached the ear of Mrs. ——, than she dispatched her servant to L——, to request the loan of a carriage belonging to one of her friends; it was constructed purposely to enable those who were wholly

enfeebled by sickness to take the benefit of gentle exercise in the open air. In that neighbourhood a request made for one of the revered name of Trevor would certainly be granted; the gentleman who owned the vehicle immediately sent it for her use.

The appearance of the carriage greatly resembled a narrow bed placed on wheels, and defended by warm coverings. Mary reclined upon it as easily as upon her own couch; thus was she drawn about the garden and homestall, and round the adjacent fields.

One remarkably fine day, finding herself stronger than usual, she proposed a longer excursion, and actually traversed the green, extended upon her moving couch; its singular appearance awakened the curiosity of those of the villagers who chanced to pass that way; but when they approached sufficiently near to discover, by the attendants, whom it contained, they turned away in tears, moved at the affecting spectacle.

"Bless you, my sweet young lady!"

said a tremulous voice, as the party rested a few minutes before the gate of a humble cottage, and presently a venerable old man approached to kiss the emaciated hand, which, once strung with vigour, had scattered blessings around his solitary home.

Many would have followed his example; but besides the fear of fatiguing her, they could not boast of having passed their best days in the service of her family, and of having been valued and respected by those whom Mary honoured.

"Shall I come to attend you again to-morrow, my dear?" asked Mrs. Barlow, when she bade farewell for the night.

"Yes, come every day while I am here; but I shall henceforth be desirous of visiting our own premises only; the melancholy exhibition, I feel, must not be repeated."

Before the family retired to rest, the pastor and Algernon usually passed an hour with her in conversation, when the latter assisted her into the adjoining chamber; here a small bed had been provided for Fanny, who slept beside the larger

one of her friend. The medicines and trifling refreshments required during the night being placed near her, all attendance at that time had, in compliance with her express injunction, been long since discontinued.

That evening she conversed with her usual cheerfulness, and listened some time with much delight to the notes of the nightingale, as the air, scented with all the fragrance of the spring, wafted the sound at intervals from the neighbouring plantations, until her brother, fearing the effects of the evening air, entreated that the window might be closed.

"Alas!" replied Mary, "danger lurks amidst that innocent enjoyment for one so shattered as myself."

"Thank Heaven!" exclaimed Algernon, forgetting his sister's melancholy state in the remembrance of her virtues, "memory will ever afford *Mary* the enjoyment of purer fragrance, and more celestial melody."

"Oh! sweeter than the fragrant flow'r,
At ev'ning's dewy close,
The will, united with the pow'r,
To succour human woes!

And softer than the softest strain
Of music to the ear,
That placid joy we give and gain
By gratitude sincere."

A blush of genuine modesty restored for a moment, to her pale countenance, some of its natural charms; and the companions of her youth gazed once again upon the faint traces of that beauty which had ever been raised, and often eclipsed, by the noble and benignant expression of her features.

Shortly afterwards she gave her hand to Algernon, who assisted her to rise; then respectfully saluting the venerable forehead of the pastor, she retired to her chamber—"Thank you, I want nothing more," said she, in reply to a question which Fanny addressed to her. "Now, dear girl, go to rest likewise."

Overcome by the wearied emotions

which she had experienced during the day, Fanny gladly obeyed.

In the morning she repaired to the bedside of her friend; she believed her to be still sleeping. Fanny returned to look upon her, and learned that she would wake no more!

The scenes which followed shall not be described.

It became necessary at length to fulfil the last request of Mary—" to suffer her to repose beside Agnes Vernor, the beloved companion of her childhood."

All funeral pomp and idle ceremony were rejected, as beneath the elevated character of the lifeless friend with whose very form they were soon to part; the simple customs of her beloved Uston, and the entreaties of those who deeply lamented her loss, were alone consulted in the arrangements of her burial.

The last kind office, that of bearing her to the peaceful grave, was performed by six young girls plainly attired in white. The individuals selected from a numerous

train of anxious competitors for "the honour," as they expressed it, "of bearing the best of the Trevors to the grave," were Esther and her two eldest sisters, and three others, who maintained that they had received the greatest number of her benefits. The bier was attended by six young ladies who could boast of having enjoyed the most frequent proofs of her respect and goodwill.

Then followed the pastor, leaning on his last supporters, Algernon and Fanny, Mrs. Barlow and Maria; then Susan, the maid-servant, and the old cottager, who claimed the right of attending to the tomb the daughter of his kind master.

Thus was she borne for ever from the roof beneath which she had so long delighted to dwell, through the garden, the scene of so many pure enjoyments, towards the village burial-ground, which they entered by a private gate.

There a long procession joined the train; feeble age, youth, and infancy, united their lamentations, until all having arranged

themselves around the grave, the commanding aspect of the minister of religion produced an awful stillness. The usual service concluded, and the tomb closed up, those immediately concerned in the heart-rending office retired; Harman, the pastor of D——, drawing off the attention of the afflicted spectators from their retreat, by requesting their attendance whilst he pronounced an address over the grave, calculated at once to console and benefit them.

Many weeks had passed away, and Fanny still remained absorbed in a melancholy reverie; scarcely had her voice been heard since her lamented benefactress ceased to breathe. Vernor long indulged the grief so natural to a young and tender heart; he had suffered her to watch for hours together in the solitary chamber of death; and since the grave had received the perishable form, with equal delicacy, he had forborne to offer all untimely comfort. Indeed, for some time, he was inadequate to the task of rousing her; but at last the effort became evidently necessary; he knew the

contents of the letter which had been entrusted to him, and chose the present opportunity to deliver it. She eagerly read the superscription—"To my beloved Fanny;" then mournfully looking up to Vernor, exclaimed—"She did not bid us farewell."

"In mercy that pang was spared her; let us not wish that her departure had been less tranquil."

"*TO MY BELOVED FANNY.*

"Amidst a series of events which, during the last three years, have conspired to render me blessed, no one pleasure has been sweeter than that which was afforded by your rapid improvement, and more especially by your habitual goodness.

"Notwithstanding, the work is yet very incomplete, and five years' additional diligence are requisite before you will be adequate, in my opinion, to undertake the important charge for which you have hitherto believed yourself training. When

five years more have passed, you will be *one-and-twenty*; by that time I hope to have had ample proof of your possessing that prudence which can guard every virtuous disposition, and that firmness which can resist and overcome evil. Then, believing your father's wish fulfilled, it was once my design to finish my guardianship, by seeking for you a situation in a family where your virtues would be duly appreciated. According to this plan, when five winters more have passed, much of our tender relation ceases; we shall no longer dwell together, and strangers must become your daily companions. Fanny, my dear child, I have long read your inmost thoughts, and have seen the distress frequently occasioned by the remembrance, that the time would arrive when poverty must separate us. The recollection that the completion of a certain course of instruction would be the signal of departure has often dashed with bitter drops the cup of otherwise-unalloyed pleasure presented to your lips; it saddened our recent fare-

well beyond the degree which the occasion itself could deserve.

"Know then that the idea of parting gives me too exquisite pain, and that Algernon, my brother, would grieve to see removed to a distance from us, one whose thirst for information and innocent gaiety so greatly contributed to raise him from his melancholy depression. Poverty need not separate us, therefore *poverty* shall not; nothing but your unbiassed inclination shall lead you to inhabit any other roof than that of stedfast friends. The provision destined for your future maintenance is thus intercepted; justice requires some compensation to be offered you, for to a state of dependance we would not ask you to submit. The enclosed parchment is a deed of gift, whereby two thousand pounds are secured to you by the strictest formalities of law. Suffer no feeling of humiliation on your part to damp the joy which the power of retaining you always with me affords; remember that, young as I then was, your father, on the bed of death,

accepted me as the guardian of his child; and henceforth consider yourself as having been provided for by him. The society of a friend educated in the principles I myself revere, and conversant with all those mental pursuits to which I am strongly attached—the affection, the support, and consolation such a companion can bestow, is the reward I look to for my anxious solicitudes.

"Will you not, Fanny, consent to become this companion, and endeavour so to improve the precious years of youth, that when the distinction between teacher and pupil shall be forgotten in the equality of friendship, we may pass our more mature years together in the elevated enjoyment which the pursuit of knowledge, and the improvement of character, so eminently afford? After the age I have before mentioned, you will receive the interest of the property yourself; we shall then call upon you to contribute your share to the family stock.

"After you are legally free, I request,

nay, *command* you to remember that you are entirely at liberty; but that we never may part voluntarily, is no less my warmest wish, than that we never shall, is my firm expectation.

Yours ever,

MARY TREVOR."

Vernor proved that he could read the heart of youth, when pure and free from all dissimulation, by the moment which he selected for the delivery of the letter. Fanny was at first violently affected by the perusal, but the kind and soothing words which Vernor addressed to her gradually produced a calm, and his watchful care preserved her from falling again into silent despondency.

"You have seen the affection which our lost friend felt for you, my child; you were comprehended in the last project she ever formed for securing happiness on earth. For you her latest prayer would have ascended to heaven—your immature charac-

ter and unfinished education would have called for it."

Thus Vernor addressed her some days subsequently with more than usual earnestness; tears were her only reply.

"She is no more—the dream of happiness is over—but we are still continued at the post of duty; and would we again meet *Mary*, that duty must be strictly observed. Does not Algernon present you with a noble example? you see his deep affliction, but you also behold his fortitude. The awful vicissitude had almost bowed me to the earth, but in Algernon, and in you, Fanny, I see my last hope. Will you add to his affliction? will you disgrace your education? will you disappoint your aged pastor?"

"Oh, speak not thus!" said Fanny, falling on her knees before him—"I will become all you desire—all that I once hoped to be."

Fanny performed her engagement; she supplied to Algernon and the pastor, with her best ability, the treasure they had lost,

and in time learned to smile again, and pursue the pleasures Mary had taught her to find in benevolence and knowledge.

FINIS.

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